

Mr Smith is confident as he faces 'ultimatum'

Rhodesians voted yesterday in a general election expected to produce another landslide victory for the ruling Rhodesian Front. Mr Smith, Prime Minister, said he believed the Anglo-American settlement proposals to be presented to him tomorrow would be "a kind of ultimatum". He would insist on making counter proposals for an internal settlement.

Defiant statement on Rhodesian polling day

By Michael Kilpatrick

BUCHU, Aug. 31.—The mainly white electorate voted in the Rhodesian general election today. Mr. Smith, the Prime Minister, said he believed the Anglo-American settlement proposals to be presented to him tomorrow would be "a kind of ultimatum".

Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Andrew Young, United States representative to the United Nations, are expected here at 8 am from Kenya to deliver and discuss the "two-word" document containing the proposals for a transition to African majority rule.

Mr. Smith made it clear in his poll broadcast yesterday he intends to make counter-proposals based on his plan for an internal settlement between his Government and leaders who have resorted to violence.

Speaking today as he cast his vote in the Salisbury North constituency, the Rhodesian leader said: "From what I understand, it's cooked and dried to me they (Dr. Owen and Mr. Young) don't want to be responsible for any facts or ideas we have. I'm led to believe it's a kind of ultimatum". But, voting at the last election, Dr.

he said, the issues would be discussed because "it would look bad if they just presented their proposals and walked away".

As is customary here, voting began slowly this morning and was expected to pick up in the early evening.

The ruling Rhodesian Front, which won all 50 white seats in the 66-seat House of Assembly at the last election, was generally expected to score another landslide victory, retaining most, if not all of its seats. This time 49 of the white seats are being contested, as Mr. Smith was returned unopposed.

The right-wing Rhodesian Action Party (RAP) formed around a nucleus of 12 former Rhodesian Front MPs who defected earlier this year, stopped short of predicting victory for itself today but claimed that it expected to "give the RF a run for its money" in the 46 seats it was contesting.

Mr. Allan Savory, leader of the left-wing National Unifying Force, admitted that he did not expect his party to win any of the 18 seats it is contesting.

The most doubtful seat for the Rhodesian Front was in the Salisbury City constituency, where it won by only three votes at the last election. Dr.



Mr. Ian Smith casts his ballot in yesterday's election in Rhodesia.

Abram Palley, a constitutional expert, former MP and long-standing opponent of Mr. Smith's Government, was repeating his challenge for the seat as an independent and was widely regarded as having a strong chance of victory.

The constituency has a large percentage of Coloured and Asian voters, and Dr. Palley, who has acted as an adviser to Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council, was expected to receive most of their votes.

Only two other constituencies seemed in any way doubtful for the Rhodesian Front—Eastern, where the Ray candidate, Mr. John Wright, a former MP, had a strong personal following, and Victoria, where the personal popularity of Mr. Gordon Olds, another former MP, was considered a strong factor.

Eric Marsden writes from Johannesburg: South Africa refused to support the Anglo-American proposals for a Rhodesia settlement because its leaders believed it would lead to a handing over to a Marxist military government there by the end of 1978, the pro-

vision whatever for the present Rhodesian Government to retain any meaningful role in the interim period before majority rule or afterwards.

The Citizen, the only English-language newspaper to support the ruling National Party, also reports its Washington sources as saying that the Anglo-American proposals "make no provision whatsoever for the present Rhodesian Government to retain any meaningful role in the interim period before majority rule or afterwards".

The air raid, in which bombs were dropped by an exchange between Zambian and Rhodesian troops, was reported as having killed 100 people.

The newspaper's claim that South Africa has rejected the settlement plan has not been officially confirmed. After the talks on Monday Mr. R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, said that South Africa had not been asked to take a position on the proposals and had not done so.

The Citizen says the Anglo-American timetable provides for the end of 1978, the pro-

Share index passes the 500 barrier

By Ray Maughan, Financial Staff

Share values increased yesterday on the London Stock Exchange to £61,299.3m and the rise on the day was £918.3m. The FT Ordinary Share Index passed through the 500 barrier with a gain of 10 points to 506.9, its highest level since January 17, 1973.

On the foreign exchanges the pound continued to be in strong demand, but the Bank of England intervened to hold down the rate.

The FT Actuaries All-Share Index at 206.54 is still 11.22 below its 1973 level and measured by the Retail Price Index, has risen by 106 per cent. Gil-edged stocks were strong and during August Government Securities rose by 1.5 per cent to only 5.59 off its 51.00 recorded last May.

Shares, as measured by the FT Ordinary Share Index, up of 30 leading companies, climbed 140.3 since the first day's trading at the beginning of the month.

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Shan takes his appeal for a pint to Scotland before the TUC at Blackpool

A luncheon in Edinburgh, organised by Sir George Sharp, Prime Minister had in his prospects looked bad that the economy improved by next year should allow a movement in ser- by local government, repre- bant-intensive the Prime efforts to below 10 local the dip. The

factory in Kirkcaldy, before returning to Edinburgh in the evening for talks with the Scottish executive of the Labour Party and to attend a party reception.

Today he will carry out several political engagements, including luncheons at the Falkirk Labour Club and the opening ceremony of Monklands District General Hospital in Coatbridge. Tonight, he is to address a Labour Party rally in Glasgow.

Tomorrow Mr Callaghan will visit a heavy engineering plant in Motherwell before returning to Glasgow to open the new premises of the Scottish Police Federation. Later, he will attend a luncheon given by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Development Fund before talks with the Scottish TUC.

Mr and Mrs Callaghan will be welcomed privately in Glasgow. On Monday the Minister will visit the commission's estate at Inverness, and complete the tour with Inverness with the Islands Develop-



Philip Moore, aged 14, reared this kestrel after it had fallen from its nest as a fledgling. Birds of prey cannot be kept without a licence, but the bird is reluctant to leave the boy.

Boy and girl hurt in IRA attack

From Our Own Correspondent Belfast

Two children were taken to hospital in Belfast yesterday after an alleged Provisional IRA rocket attack on a British army vehicle in the strongly republican Springfield Road district.

A boy aged 13 and a girl of 12 were hit by flying shrapnel when the rocket missed its target and exploded on waste ground. Their condition was serious.

In the past the inaccuracy of IRA rockets has frequently caused concern and anxiety to the lives of residents of Catholic districts. A soldier was wounded by a bullet fired in an attack near the Spent cartridges rifle were founds of a Catho- on the Army's on.

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HOME NEWS

Five chosen to take part in the space race

By Michael Horsnell

A programme to find Europe's first astronaut was launched on a tide of gin and tonic from the eighth floor of the Department of Industry in London yesterday.

The department's space division introduced to the press five young Britons who will be competing with 55 other Europeans for the first extra-terrestrial vacancy offered by the European Space Agency.

The successful applicant, for whom no previous experience is necessary, will have the good fortune to be blasted from Cape Canaveral in 1980 in the company of a so far unnamed American for a seven-day tour of duty in the European space laboratory.

The five, chosen by a joint panel of Department of Industry and Science Research Council, are: Mr Geoffrey Firmin, aged 29, a nuclear physicist from Wimbledon; Mr William Grut, aged 27, a metallurgist from Sevenoaks, Kent; Dr Arthur Ince, aged 31, a medical research physicist from Birmingham; Dr Keith Mason, aged 26, an astronomer from Croydon; and Dr Michael Rycroft, aged 39, a lecturer in physics from Southampton.

They were among the six hundred people who answered an advertisement in June which attracted applications from a total of nine as well as a woman of 70 who said she wanted to do something useful.

Their names have been submitted to the European Space Agency which will consider an out-of-this-world job were vacant and said he would be very disappointed if the first Euroonaut was not British.



Aspiring astronauts: Mr Grut, Dr Ince, Dr Mason and Mr Firmin.

further screening, and then a final three will be sent to America for training for the joint American-European space mission, Spacelab.

The press conference was attended by Mr Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, who announced that only a small proportion of the 600 applications for an out-of-this-world job were cranks and said he would be very disappointed if the first Euroonaut was not British.

Staggered school hours for cheaper transport

By Our Transport Correspondent

Staggered school hours could help to arrest the decline in public transport, a study by the Local Government Operational Research Unit suggests. Buses make their biggest losses trying to provide for the peak, and the time and size of the peak are mainly determined by the times open and close.

In Huddersfield, where the study was made, half the bus trips in the peak half-hour to school were to school. Staggering school hours to reduce the size of the

peak would lead to "substantial economies" in the bus undertaking, the study says. It might also cause social difficulties, the Council of Local Education Authorities said last night.

Other ideas proposed by the study include higher fares for peak than for off-peak travel, and planning new developments close to bus routes.

Opposition to the European Space Agency which will consider an out-of-this-world job were vacant and said he would be very disappointed if the first Euroonaut was not British.

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The kind of information that should be given would cover prices, hours of opening, special offers and services offered by small shopkeepers.

Blind oppose radio advertising aim

By Kenneth Gosling

Opposition to any local radio station's being dependent to a significant extent on advertising revenue is expressed by the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom in comments on the Annan report.

The federation points out that information in such advertising is "tiny in amount and highly biased and selective". It says more consumer information should be provided on non-commercial local radio.

The kind of information that should be given would cover prices, hours of opening, special offers and services offered by small shopkeepers.

He added: "We decided we would advertise the job widely because we wanted to make sure we would properly tap the reserves of talent we have in this country. You do not necessarily do that on a 'who knows who' basis."

Spaceplane will be launched on a reusable space craft now undergoing tests in America. Although two of the Europeans were cranks and said he would be very disappointed if the first Euroonaut was not British.

Most of the candidates for the job, which carried a salary of more than £10,000 and is tax-free were impressing everyone yesterday with their super-fitness. Mr Firmin, who does not smoke and was sipping an orange juice, said he had spent three years with the British Antarctic survey and insisted that, even with the odds of 60 to 1 against, he will be chosen considering sending them to

space if the project continues.

The court was told of clashes between rival supporters inside and outside the ground. All 17 pleaded guilty to using threatening words and behaviour. Fourteen were fined a total of £1,250, and the other three had their cases postponed after the magistrates had said they were considering sending them to prison.

Manchester football train is cancelled

British Rail has decided to cancel the football special that would have carried about 400 Manchester United supporters without tickets to the match with Derby County next Saturday. Mr Walter Johnson, Labour member for Derby, South, said yesterday.

Mr Johnson, who had appealed for the train to be cancelled, said British Rail had yesterday reached a sensible and reasonable decision. He added: "These fans would not have been admitted to the ground and would have gone on the rampage in Derby instead."

Derby County has already announced that it will admit to the match only Manchester United supporters with special vouchers.

Mr Johnson added: "This could be a lesson for other clubs to consult British Rail when they are planning some special voucher or ticket system for a particular match."

Maximum fines: Maximum fines of £100 each were imposed on nine of 17 supporters at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday after violent scenes at Saturday's Villa Park game between Aston Villa and Everton.

The Tate has disclosed yesterday the history of the masterpieces "Reapers" and "Haymakers" has been a mystery, but yesterday the Tate gave details of the paintings' past owners. It has been built up from information supplied by Mr R. N. Tombs, a nephew of a previous owner. Several dealers have searched their ledgers and their memories and the Tate staff made their own investigations.

Miss Caroline Downer of the Red House, Canning, near Corwen, Clwyd, died at Ramsgate on December 24, 1933, bequeathing the contents of the Red House to her nieces Violet and Nancy Tombs.

The contents included the two paintings, which the sisters put up for auction at the house and were knocked down to Mr J. C. Cross, of Liverpool, apparently for £10 each. Mr Cross sold the pictures in London and they eventually came into the possession of Major John Lycent Wills, the present vendor.

Stubb's is last known to have been to the gallery for nine years before auction. A fairly early work by the artist, it has been cleaned and reframed, and a dirty covering of varnish has been removed to bring out the colours.

Inquiry assurance on nuclear reactor plans

From a Special Correspondent
Whitehaven

There will be an inquiry into any proposal to build Britain's first fast-breeder reactor. That assurance was given to Mr Justice Parker, the inspector, for oxide reprocessing at Windscale yesterday.

The assurance came from the Department of the Environment, after the inquest, earlier in the inquiry, of an under-secretary at the department to give an explicit answer to the inspector on whether there would be such an inquiry.

Mr Justice Parker said the ministry had stated that my decision to build the first fast-breeder reactor, the prototype of which is at Dounreay, Scotland, would be the subject of being successful at an inquiry into fast breeders."

Oxide reprocessing can be seen as a natural predecessor to fast-breeder reactors. The reprocessing would provide the plutonium that fast breeders use as a fuel.

£1m Stubbs paintings were once sold for £10 each

The two Stubbs paintings, valued at more than £1m, which the Tate Gallery is trying to acquire for the nation, were sold 44 years ago for £10 each, the Tate disclosed yesterday. Hitherto the history of the masterpieces "Reapers" and "Haymakers" has been a mystery, but yesterday the Tate gave details of the paintings' past owners, which were published in 1791. What happened to the pictures between then and Miss Downer's time remains a mystery which the Tate Gallery hopes eventually to unravel.

The paintings have been offered to the nation for £774,000 and the Tate is trying to raise £40,000 for them by Christmas. If that is done, the gallery will receive a special government grant, which, with other donations and the Tate's own funds, will enable the pictures to be bought.

National purchase: The National Gallery's latest acquisition, "Portrait of a Collector", by Parmigianino, bought at Christie's in July for £650,000, excluding buyer's premium, goes on show at the public next Tuesday (our Arts department writes). It will be in one of the gallery's newly decorated rooms, Room 8, with two other Parmigianino works.

The painting had been loaned to the gallery for nine years before auction. A fairly early work by the artist, it has been cleaned and reframed, and a dirty covering of varnish has been removed to bring out the colours.

New bridge plan

Plans to build another road bridge over the Forth to ease traffic congestion are being considered by the Central Region Council.

Navy destroys mines

Royal Navy ships yesterday destroyed two Second World War mines. One was south of the Humber and the other south of Milford Haven.

In brief

George Ince to be married

Mr George Ince, at present serving a 15-year prison sentence for a billion robbery he maintains he did not commit, was told yesterday that he will be released for an hour next Wednesday to get married four Crime Correspondent writes.

The Home Office announced that arrangements, at his request, had been made for his marriage to Mrs Dolly Grey, to take place at Hammersmith Register Office.

Banks double rewards

The London clearing banks announced last night that from today the rewards to be paid for assistance in securing the conviction of bank raiders will be doubled to £5,000 (our Crime Correspondent writes).

Since the reward scheme started in 1960, 263 awards have been made, totalling £103,400. Between 1960 and 1971, the maximum of £1,000 was paid on 10 occasions. Since then the maximum of £2,500 has been paid nine times.

Sit-in woman has her operation

Mrs Violet Small, aged 48, had an operation on her cripplid hip joint at St Albans Hospital, Hertfordshire, yesterday. A week after she had occupied an office at the hospital for 10 hours.

Mrs Small, who has waited two years for her operation, was to have had it last Tuesday but it was put off. That was the second time it had happened, so she staged a sit-in.

£22,000 rings snatched

Six hundred diamond rings valued at about £22,000 were stolen by two men, one of them armed, who ambushed a jeweller's representative at Offington, Worthing, Sussex, yesterday.

Course for jobless

Thirteen comprehensive schools throughout Liverpool are to start this month a "return and learn" course for hundreds among the city's 31,000 young unemployed.

Phones still cut off

About three thousand telephone subscribers in north-west London are still cut off as a result of flooding last week. The Post Office said yesterday.

Grunwick says in reply to Scarman report that it will never reinstate workers on strike

In its response to the report of the Scarman inquiry into the dispute at Grunwick Processing Laboratories the company said yesterday that, where possible, it will meet the report's recommendations. Grunwick says it will recognise the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff as having the right to bargain for workers who wish to join it, if the House of Lords overturns the recent Court of Appeal judgment against recognition. However, it says it will not reinstate the strikers who were dismissed. Nor will it consider ex-gratia payments to strikers. The full text of the company's reply is as follows:

When the Secretary of State for Employment, using the powers conferred upon him by Section 4 of the Industrial Courts Act 1919, established an inquiry headed by Lord Justice Scarman, with Mr J. P. Lowry and Mr T. Parry, as the two members, he directed that the terms of reference to the court should be:

To inquire into the causes and circumstances of and relevant to the dispute between the company and the strikers in the Huddersfield area before the High Court until the final determination of those proceedings, and to report.

That was in itself a very peculiar result, because few concerned citizens could have been unaware that Grunwick was in dispute with former employees whom it had dismissed and who were represented by a few and not by a trade union. Perhaps Britain would be happier if the individual had less freedom, though Grunwick does not think so. But it is a matter for the British people as a whole through their representatives in Parliament and not the courts of law.

So long as an area of freedom still exists, a good citizen has every right to enjoy it. He ought not to be dissuaded by being told that the exercise of his undoubted right would be liable to criminal prosecution.

These are stark standards indeed, and Grunwick rejects them out of hand. We believe the report, at this point, is seriously in error, illogical in its reasoning, dangerous in its implications, and going contrary to custom and practice—not to mention common sense.

The dispute began when Mr Devish Bhudia, aged 19, walked off the job. From the start, Grunwick maintained that this was a pre-arranged action by a committee of the management, and not an act of individual defiance.

It was not, and no one concerned with the legalities of the law, can be expected to believe otherwise.

That was the position of the court of inquiry, which the Government had urged it to accept.

It was not the position of the

APEX version of how the strike began. Even if there was no evidence to support the claim, it does not follow that the court of inquiry's finding has little relation to the facts.

Under the law, it is the court of inquiry that decides what happened.

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WEST EUROPE

French Cabinet adopts spending programme to help unemployed but denies it is reflating economy

From Ian Murray
Paris, Aug 31

Measures to help the unemployed, especially the young, were announced after today's Cabinet meeting. The projects involved will cost many millions, but M Barre, the Prime Minister, strenuously denied that he was in any way reflating the economy. It was, he said, purely a support operation.

The main steps to be taken are:

Reducing the lending rate from 10.5 to 9.5 per cent and the base rate from 3.6 to 9.3 per cent.

Holding rent increases at 5 per cent in state housing while making another 15,000 houses available for rent purchase and a further 16,500 on subsidized rents under a new scheme.

Releasing £100m for building and public works.

Passing £60m on to local authorities for development in their area.

Increasing loan aid for large industrial projects from £230m to £350m.

Helping companies in financial difficulty, with measures to be announced soon.

Raising the annual school grant from £35 to £53.

These spending measures are to be accompanied by new clampdowns on workers who stay unemployed by choice. The national labour exchange staff is to be increased, and industry and local authorities are to

cooperate in a scheme to make sure every available job is well advertised in post offices. The cases of everyone who has not found a job within three months will be carefully examined and there will be stricter control on rejection of job offers.

President Giscard d'Estaing said after the Cabinet meeting that the past year had seen the French economy re-established with a halt in the fall of the franc's value and an improvement in exports.

This had made possible slower price rises and better job opportunities, he said. These are the two areas where M Barre's economic plan has failed to make any progress and which are thus likely to be most electorally damaging. The emphasis on improving housing is meant not only to fulfil one of M Giscard d'Estaing's main commitments, but also to help the depressed building industry.

The President summed up the situation as he now saw it: "For the past four years the world has been entering a new phase, marked by a slower growth rate and new power blocks. Faced with this situation, some of the industrial nations have been tempted to slacken and to slide into decline. Others who have faced up to the situation, are reaping the first fruits of taking the courageous choice."

M Maire met his opposite number in the communist trade union, M Georges Seguy, today to discuss tactics for the year ahead.

Immunity dispute over 'beating of MP'

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 31

A dispute over parliamentary immunity continued here today with three investigations underway, prompted by allegations that police beat up a congressional deputy of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) last weekend in Santander.

A spokesman for the PSOE, the main opposition party in parliament, said in Madrid today that the party is still waiting for an answer to its demand for a special plenary session of Parliament at which Señor Rodofo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister, can be questioned about the incident and related matters.

The Interior Minister has sent senior police officials to Santander to look into the matter. He told journalists in Madrid last night that he could not make any firm judgment until he had heard from the investigators in his own ministry. "Besides," he added, "as Interior Minister it is my obligation to keep up the morale of the forces of public order."

A second investigation is being carried out by a special parliamentary committee. A third is under way as a result of claims made by policemen involved in the alleged beating of the Socialist deputy, Señor Jaime Blanco, insulted them. This last investigation is to substantiate charges brought by the policemen.

The storm over parliamentary immunity began last Saturday after a political rally in Santander in favour of regional autonomy. While all the circumstances are not clear it appears that Señor Santiago Carrillo, the secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, told Señor Suárez that the Interior Minister should resign. The Minister had replied that he was ready to quit at any time if he felt he should. But he did not give any indication that this time had now come.

The Socialist rejected efforts by Señor Ignacio Caminadas, the Minister in charge of relations with Parliament, to settle the issue in talks between party representatives and members of the Government. In what appeared to be an effort to play down the incident, Señor Caminadas went so far as to say: "There will be more Santander cases before Spain finally gets used to democracy."

France has decided to stay in that little group of countries capable of overcoming the problems of the pre-

East Germany Marxist challenges 'dogma'

From Gertel Spitzer
Berlin, Aug 31

Attempts by lawyers to give legal assistance to Herr Rudolf Bahro, the Marxist critic who was arrested in East Germany on August 23, have failed so far.

This was disclosed at a press conference in Bonn today when the Cologne publishing house, Europäische Verlagsanstalt presented Herr Bahro's book *The Alternative—On Criticism of Socialism as it Really Exists*.

A tape with Herr Bahro's remark made before his arrest was played at the conference.

Speaking about his book he said that the situation as it had developed since Helsinki, and even more so since the communist summit in East Berlin (where Soviet dogmatism was challenged) should be exploited as Eurocommunism had shown its capability of presenting an ideological challenge to the Soviet party machinery.

The party machinery should become used to facing an open opposition, it had to be forced to fight in the open. Bahro added that his book was to provide the basis for an opposition to the ruling party machinery.

Observers of the East German scene do not think that Herr Bahro will achieve his purpose, particularly as Soviet intervention is blamed for his arrest. The observers doubt whether he will be put on trial as this would give him an opportunity to spread his ideas.

East German authorities banned the publication of Herr Bahro's book when he offered it to East German publishers. Copies of his manuscript were circulated, however, before the book was printed in the West.

By his own request the book is to be sent to Western communist parties as basis for discussion among the left.

The observers do not exclude that Herr Bahro might be "bought free" by the West and expelled from East Germany to prevent a discussion about him and his ideas.

Considering the number of writers and actors who were recently allowed to move to the West, it seems obvious that East Germany prefers to get rid of its critics instead of facing an open debate.

France warns Spain on farming interests

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Aug 31

President Giscard d'Estaing told Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, "fairly and honestly" today that France could not sacrifice agriculture in its southern regions to ease Spain's way into the European Community.

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Two kidnaps in Italy bring 1977 total to 52

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Aug 31

Two more kidnaps in the last two days in the southern region of Calabria bring this year's abductions to 52.

The two latest victims are Signor Giuseppe Luppino, aged 21, a university student whose empty car was found today near Reggio Calabria and Dr Luigi Manzella, aged 53, chief gynaecologist at the Siderno hospital.

Emmenthal rivals in cheese war

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Aug 31

One of the biggest cheese fairs in the world opens on Friday at the Picardy village of La Capelle (population 2,500) near St Quentin. The aromas of more than 250 different varieties will mingle in the half-acre exhibition hall, and up to 30,000 people are expected to descend on the village on the Sunday open day to sample the event.

Some will be taking part in the annual Maroilles cheese eating contest. Entrants in the preliminary heat have to eat about 7oz of the very strong creamy cheese in 20 minutes without the help of bread or drink. Candidates reaching the final are, however, allowed wine and bread to help them, and the winner eats most.

The fair has developed an

international reputation since it was started 10 years ago, and exhibitors come from all over France and Belgium to take part. Wine houses are also starting to take space for the event.

On the cheese front, something of a war is developing between the dairies of Brittany and those of the Franche Comté near the Swiss border, where all the Franche Comté should originate. Enterprise firms in Brittany, with its vast milk surplus, have been copying Emmenthal cheese to near perfection and are now responsible for about 40 per cent of all production of this type.

There is a slight difference in taste so the imitation type is almost exclusively for export. But to all but the most discriminating palate the only way to tell the difference is that the

real kind is spelt Emmenthal with an "H"—"thal" being the German for valley and Emmenthal its name—and the imitation one is spelt Emmenthal.

The Confédération Régionale de la Gruyère, which represents all the producers of the real thing, has called the Breton dairies "the Japanese of Europe" and is seeking quotas for the product. The Bretons are happy to agree that their cheese is second best and to go on attacking the export market.

But they have their problems. A lot of the milk from local farms is not sufficiently hygienic. In consequence, when the fermentation process that puts the holes in the cheese starts, things can go too far. Some cheeses have burst, showering 16Sb round the dairy.

Prisoner missing after leave

to help prisoner to rehabilitate themselves.

The authorities today issue a warning that anyone meeting M Champenois should be kind to him as he could be dangerous if provoked. When he was arrested M Champenois said he had planned to kill other people against whom he held grievances and the police fear he may want to carry out his long-delayed plans.—AP.

Berlin clash over Hitler film

Berlin, Aug 31.—Police and communist demonstrators clashed last night outside a West Berlin cinema showing a new film about Adolf Hitler.

Some 30 communists set up a table of literature outside the cinema and fighting broke out after they were ordered by police to take it down. Five men were arrested.—AP.

OVERSEAS

Increased prosperity blamed for drinking problem

Soviet doctors and economists alarmed by level of alcoholism

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Aug 31

The Soviet Union, the United States, Sweden and Poland more than 50 per cent consist of highly alcoholic drinks.

In the Soviet Union, working figures for 1956-68, the proportion was 62.3 per cent of strong spirits, mainly vodka. Even that figure was not complete because of the unknown amount of home-produced alcohol, especially in country areas.

In the Dunrovia province of the Moscow region, tests showed that the amount of home-produced alcohol was not far behind the officially made product. In 1960 an average of nearly 13 litres of vodka were drunk by every inhabitant and 10 litres of home-made alcohol.

There is no reason to suppose that the situation has improved; rather the reverse.

Strumilin gave as the first consequence of his fiscal ill-consequence to worry and alarm doctors and economists". Even more shocking, presumably, is a Marxist that one of the reasons given for the failure to face the problem is that the legal manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks is a state monopoly which brings a sizable income into the national exchequer.

The latest serious initiative in looking at the problem comes from the Academy of Sciences in Siberia. In particular, attention has been drawn to the damage caused by alcohol in a report by Stanislav Strumilin, an economist who died last year. His work has recently been the basis for discussions between doctors, journalists, sociologists, psychologists, writers and artists in Novosibirsk.

Strumilin's basic contention was that drunkenness caused a serious loss in human energy. The extent of addiction was measured largely in terms of consumption of highly alcoholic drinks.

In Britain, some 79 per cent of alcoholic drinking is limited to beer and in Italy wine-drinking accounts for 91 per cent, but in countries such as the

The reasons, which Strumilin gave for drunkenness, were "internal tension", the desire to be free from the burdens of life in society, and the inability to use the increasing amount of free time offered by reforms.

These reasons suggest that alcoholism may well be increasing. According to the president of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, drunkenness is the cause of many crimes or the condition in which they are committed. In 1971 some 55.8 per cent of thefts, 77.9 per cent of robberies and 69.3 per cent of cases of physical violence to obtain other people's property were committed under the influence of alcohol.

Strumilin's first proposal for improvement was to reduce the alcoholic content of vodka by 25 per cent without lowering the price, so that the state need not suffer a loss. He then called for stricter measures against private distilling so that home-made alcohol did not fill the gap left by weaker official vodka. He wanted an increase in the production of non-alcoholic drinks and a serious economic and social study on the damage caused by alcohol.

The round table at Novosibirsk endorsed Strumilin's views beginning with a discussion of the nature of crime in the republics where hard drinks were normal than in the wine-drinking republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, where wine was the basic drink.

The economic consequences were, he felt, increasingly serious with the advance of automation which no longer required simple physical strength but mental concentration, continuous attention and quick reactions. All these qualities were the first to suffer the effects of heavy drinking.

The Siberian Academy estimated that, if workers could be kept sober, there would be a rise of 10 per cent in productivity. Even with "partial sobriety", an increase of 2.3 per cent could be expected.

Productivity in factories dropped regularly after a holiday, a weekend and pay day.

President takes to TV to promote energy crisis

From Michael Leapman
New York, Aug 31

The difficulty President Carter has in persuading Americans that there is an energy crisis was illustrated in a television programme taped for broadcast tonight. In a three-hour programme devoted entirely to energy, the President answered questions from viewers. Two of the 10 questioners said that they did not believe that there was an energy shortage.

In his answers, the President revealed that the United States now has a 10-month reserve of oil stored in the ground in domes in the south-west of the country. He pointed out that, with domestic oil production falling by about 6 per cent a year, the country was more and more dependent on overseas supplies.

Most of the oil is in the domes, he said. "If we do have another embargo, rather than have our economy brought to its knees, we could at least have about a 10-month supply of oil that's already been imported and stored."

He went on: "We are searching for new oil. We are not finding any. Our supplies are dying away. At the same time, demands for oil are increasing. So, we are going to have constant tangible demonstrations of the crisis unless we act."

To another questioner, the President admitted that it was hard to prove the existence of a crisis when there were no queues at petrol stations. "But there's no doubt that the energy shortage is here, it's getting increasingly severe throughout the world and it's going to approach a crisis stage without very much delay in the future, so we've got to conserve oil and gas, shift to coal and other supplies." He also mentioned his Administration's drive to encourage the production and sale of smaller cars, and the insulation of homes.

The last question came from a young boy named Samson who asked what could be done to produce more energy by the time he grew up. The President mentioned his goals on energy savings to be made by 1985 and concluded: "I should have been done 10 years ago. Eamon, I and the Congress will have to present to the American people a comprehensive energy package built into law that will make you have a productive life when you're an adult."

Trawlers intercepted off French Guiana

Cayenne, French Guiana, Aug 31.—Six foreign trawlers—three American, two Japanese and a South Korean—have been intercepted by French Guiana's 12-mile fishing zone. The shrimp fishing season has just begun.

Mr. E. B. Boden, president of the South African Amateur Athletic Union and the running of athletics, he said, "happened to be all white, but members of all ethnic groups in South Africa competed to play in the team."

Mr. Boden resigned, saying only on political grounds.

South Africa has no laws prohibiting racially integrated sports as such, but other laws, including the Group Areas Act, which keep the races segregated, provide no room for mixed sporting facilities. Government policy allows for "multiracial" games in which whites can play against black, coloured or Asian teams. Under official policy this is allowed because the two-white teams represent their own ethnic groups.

South Africa will allow members of separate ethnic groups to play on the same team in international competitions such as in last weekend's rugby game between the World XV and South Africa's Springbok team. The Springbok team

is direct conflict with Government policy. Partial integration, with white control, would not satisfy critics of South Africa at the International Amateur Federation.

Legal and disciplinary action was taken against eight white rugby players in October, 1976, but two joined two black teams to play in weekend "friendly" matches.—UPI.

OVERSEAS

Suspicion of Syrian forces' intentions growing among Lebanese Christians

From Robert Fisk

Beirut, Aug 31.—Less than 100 yards down the road from the plush new offices of Lebanon's very right-wing National Liberal Party, a Syrian paratrooper stops you. "I'm a devoted to President from the day they were in the car. They are none of the friendly greetings that you receive in the Muslim quarter, and the soldier does not smile as he leans through the passenger window and studies the floor. He is looking for guns."

Another paratrooper, equally solemn-faced, covers your car with a machine gun from behind a pile of sandbags. Across in East Beirut these days, the Syrians are keeping a very close eye indeed on the Christian population.

On the fifth floor of the office block Mr Dor Chammoun lets you know what he thinks of the Syrians as he sits in a red leather armchair in an open-neck shirt and talks in a careful formal prose.

Students of the Lebanese civil war will recall that Mr Chammoun, and the former President Camille Chamoun, could be seen last August firing his automatic American-made rifle into the Palestinian camp at Tel al-Zaatar shortly before it fell to the Christian armies. He is a man whom the Christians must feel has a claim to be listened to.

"We have been concerned at some of the individual behaviour of members of the Syrian forces," he says. "Although we agree with their general policy and to their presence here in Lebanon, we find sometimes that there are certain officers in certain areas who instead of remaining neutral are taking sides and seriously damaging the reputation of the Syrians."

That is as far as Mr Chammoun will officially go in referring to the allegations of pro-Palestinian bias and racketeering which the Christian leadership privately levels against individual Syrian soldiers.

Even the Lebanese Front—the political umbrella under which all the Christian Maronite political groups shelter—last Saturday publicly asked the authorities to investigate "var-

ious repeated incidents" involving the Arab League peace-keeping force in Lebanon. The Syrians, who deny any widespread behaviour on the part of their Army, make up the largest part of the Arab League force.

The Lebanese Front also complained in a long statement after its two-day conference in the north Lebanese resort town of Ehden that the Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon were not being disarmed, and that the Palestinians were being allowed to ship arms into the port of Tyre. It insisted that Palestinians in the south of the country should be "disbursed" among other Arab nations.

The Front began to retract some of its harsh words yesterday, claiming that it had not meant to imply that the Lebanese Government was lazy or that the Syrians were not doing a valuable job. But it left no one in the country in any doubt that the Maronites are still prepared to flex their political, and by implication, military, muscles.

Mr Dor Chammoun today was decrying the failure of the authorities to make arrests after the massacre which followed the assassination of the leftist leader, Kamal Jumblatt, this spring.

The Maronites claim that 187 people died during the violence and that not one man was arrested, despite the fact that the Christians gave the Arab League force a list of more than 40 names of men believed to have been responsible.

Behind all the criticism, however, there seems to be a much deeper, at times almost unconscious, fear of Syrian intentions in Lebanon. The Christians have often wondered whether the Syrians want to "Arabise" their country since their intervention in the civil war last year.

Mr Chammoun cannot understand why the peace force will not enter the Palestinian camps in Beirut but suspects that President Assad of Syria thinks the Syrian, Alawite and Sunni communities would start fighting each other if there was a

US-Soviet arms meeting is postponed

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Aug 31

After some initial resentment, President Carter now appears more sympathetic to demands from black American leaders for new Administration steps to help the poor and the neglected.

Mr Carter feels, in the words of his press spokesman, that a "moderate and reasonable" approach is required.

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Pie in the political sky: Mr Abraham Beame, mayor of New York, is the target for an apple pie thrown during a Democratic primary meeting on Tuesday night. Only a small piece of it caught him.

Black Congressmen to meet Mr Carter

From David Cross

Washington, Aug 31

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SPORT

Cricket

Gloucester's tail glean precious bonus points for batting

By John Woodcock
CARLISLE: Gloucester, with all their first innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs behind Gloucester.

For most of the day Gloucestershire looked rather more like prospective county champions than Glamorgan did, like possible winners of the Gillette Cup. They had, even so, to fight hard for all their bonus points for batting and every point at the moment is like cold dust to them. At close of play Glamorgan, in reply to Gloucester's 303 for nine declared, had made 22 for no wicket.

At 198 for two, after 50 overs with Zaheen and Hignell in full cry, Gloucestershire were heading for four hundred. But Jones, with the wicketkeeper, had five catches in a row, two of them very good, to end with only two wickets left. Gloucester, at 256 for eight, found themselves needing another 44 runs for their fourth batting point.

They had only Shackleton and Childs left — Shackleton with a batting average when the season started of 13, Braithwaite of seven and Childs of four. In the event Shackleton and Childs made child's play of it, getting 11 runs in nine overs, mostly off the middle and outer parts of the bat. As if to show that they would have done no such thing off him, Cartwright had Shackleton leg-before, soon after which he was bowled, whereas Procter declared: "The ball is not too many bowlers. I suppose who dismisses in first class cricket both a father and son, as Cartwright has, has no doubt done to the Shakespearines."

It is splendid that a side with so little outstanding talent as Glamorgan should have reached Saturday's final at Lord's through their enthusiasm for some-day cricket. Five thousand of them are expected to make the journey to London, where they will hope to see some cricket more safely and bowl more accurately than they did for a fair time yesterday.

Driving through Wiltshire and Gloucestershire on the way to London, I wondered whether we should play cricket again this season. It played so hard. But once over the Severn bridge it cleared up and only three quarters of an hour after the match had been due to start it did so. If Procter had been right, but the light may have put him off, it was still murky enough for the umpires to have come off had Procter himself been bowling.

Cartwright, though, and Nash were safe enough with two dismissals before the rain came in. In Cordle's first over and two more by Sadig in Nash's second, Gloucestershire were soon on their way. Sunvold is full of strokes and the desire to play them. Sadig eager to pounce on anything



short, had a life at slip off Cordle. Sunvold had six and he scored 40, of 76 made in 22 overs. Sunvold was bowled, aiming wide off mid-on, which is rather his territory: Sadig was excellent caught at second slip by King, diving and left-handed.

In 105 minutes before lunch Gloucestershire scored 163 for 2; in warm sunshine afterwards they added another 125 in 90 minutes, finishing the 50 over total, with a wicket in hand. Hignell, thumping it away, no backlift and all rugged determination. Even when these two were separated by the second of Jones's catches, Hignell and Procter put on 33 with no particular difficulty.

Perhaps it was they who were finding it so easy that Hignell was caught away down the leg side by Jones: Procter edged an outswinger; Braithwaite and Shepherd were both caught at slip, wicket chasing at wide balls. It was a good start, but Gloucestershire nearly did. Wilkins and Nash, both bowing left arm over the wicket at mid-on, provided Jones and others with two off Outon, bowing at quite a high price.

Left with 50 minutes' batting, Gloucestershire survived without the wicketkeeper, who was out, but had so much to do with their beating Leicestershire in their Gillett semi-final, took a nasty blow on a finger from a ball from Braithwaite that lifted. Dead slow was the pick of the ball, but the wicket was still there. Weather permitting, Gloucestershire have a great chance of collecting 16 more points before tomorrow night, which would make them the leaders in their group.

GLoucestershire: First Innings: Sadig Mohammad, c King, b Cartwright; P. Sunvold, b Nash; 26. S. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; P. Procter, c E. Jones, b Nash; 29. D. Wilkins, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 30. J. Braithwaite, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 31. J. Shepherd, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 32. D. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 33. J. A. Cordle, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 34. J. A. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 35. J. A. Wilkins, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 36. J. A. Sunvold, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 37. J. A. Cordle, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 38. J. A. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 39. J. A. Wilkins, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 40. J. A. Sunvold, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 41. J. A. Cordle, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 42. J. A. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 43. J. A. Wilkins, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 44. J. A. Sunvold, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 45. J. A. Cordle, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 46. J. A. Hignell, c E. Jones, b Cartwright; 47. J. A. Wilkins, c E. 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Design



Photographs by Harry Keen

The bridge between beauty and utility

In 1973 the Victoria and Albert Museum mounted an exhibition called The Craftsman's Art. No venue could have been of course more appropriate since the V and A was originally dedicated to celebrating the superior moral and economic virtues of good design coupled with hard work; the "joy through work" admired by William Morris, indeed.

However, since those fine high minded days the degree of admiration accorded to the working craftsman has declined. In the popular imagination, he became not so much a friend, neighbour, crucial manufacturer and repairer of the utilities and beauties of life in your own community, as a jeans-clad iconoclastic student staging sit-ins on a state-provided grant. Or if not the former, then a weird figure making corn dollies and superannuated wagon wheels for the benefit of the tourist trade.

On the other side of the coin, design trained students and craftsmen, many of them extremely gifted and radical, despaired of the level of public taste, public understanding of what their work was actually about, and public willingness to pay a viable price for hours of hand labour and innovative thought. There was even a fringe area in student thinking that good, or better, design was somehow immoral because it did seem to cost more than rubbish and therefore it was likely to be reserved for the more "privileged" members of society.

I have to say at this point that I regard this concept as about the greatest indictment of British design

education, for it implies a lack of instruction both in philosophy and economics. "Good" or "better" design begins at whatever level the product you are making is aimed at; it can—and mostly should be—more attractive everyday practical objects for the chain stores, or it can be an amazing hand-painted, devotedly worked dress by Zandra Rhodes, which will have just the same effect on the mass market because it will be copied, albeit ever so crudely.

A prime factor in good design is that it is producible at a price which fits it to the market for which it was intended. Otherwise it is badly designed, just as though it was not functional or efficient. If the product is too expensive for its potential desirability, then the designer has not learnt—or not been taught—crucial aspects of his profession.

The initiator of the V and A exhibition was Lord Eccles, then Minister for the Arts. Being a very thoughtful man, and a man of strong tastes which are not muddled up with a lot of well-intentioned but ineffectual clap-trap, he saw that the time was right to re-establish the working craftsman as a force in society. The show was tremendous success. Furniture, macrame, textiles, pots, baskets, jewelry, objects of amusement and decoration, it introduced the work of people who had hitherto been an accepted and unremarkable part of any town or village to those who would in the past have patronized the nearest Woolworths. It had one major flaw. There were no prices on the goods and the whole business about meeting the

designer and perhaps saying you would prefer five legs on your chair, or a little bit less mauve and green and a little more mouse and terra cotta was too discreet. The exhibition sought to promote private patronage from the most modest price, but the British have long been suspicious of and hostile to the craftsman, and the two need to be brought together more forcibly.

Lord Eccles saw the V and A exhibition as the "bridge between beauty and utility" which is the place he accords, rightly and succinctly, to the working craftsman. It was therefore very salutary to have his comments on the current exhibition at the British Crafts Centre, 43 Earlham Street, London, WC2 (01-836 6993).

The last queen of England had her silver jubilee in 1962. In the same year Ruskin published *Unto the Last*, a series of articles collected in book form embued with his own brand of romantic socialism. It is an attack on the brutality of Victorian capitalism and envisages a society in which schemes of vocational training would be set up in government workshops which would regulate standards of workmanship and payment," writes Marigold Golman, editor of Crafts Magazine in her foreword to the Masterpiece catalogue. Readers may recall an analogy with the Russian concept of the artist-craftsman which I wrote about earlier this year. "These articles" continues Ms Golman "had a profound effect on William Morris and his followers who in that year carried off two gold medals at the International Exhibition at South Kensington" (thus

proving that high morals need not rule out commercial success) "where his medieval style furniture and glass was praised for details satisfying to the archeologist from the exactness of the imitation, at the same time the general effect is excellent."

It seems kinder to draw a veil over the idea of a great craftsman getting a gold medal for the excellence of his imitation. The things in the exhibition at the Crafts Centre are not, mostly, imitative, but there are some harsh remarks to be made about them. Lord Eccles' major criticism was the lack of selectivity in the exhibits—"when you just ask two hundred craftsmen to exhibit you get 200 assessors of what is good. Most designers are hopeless at judging their work, they probably just send in what they think will sell". He also disapproves the new costing system, a markup on prices of 100 per cent "when it used to be 33 1/3 per cent you could see a bowl, or a weaving, and even if it was quite out of your usual sort of thing to buy it still wasn't frightening, it could introduce you to a whole new craftsman's talent. "We agree that it is the reforming of the relationship between customer and designer which is crucial."

Maybe this was one reason why I was so taken with a visit to Fosseway House Workshops at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Here, in a crumpling Victorian Gothic mansion (44 rooms, exotic plumbing and wiring), a group of very talented and very dedicated young people have set up workshops and quasi-communal living. Chilblains are mitigated by

the unparalleled views around the house, which is superbly sited, and is in any case imbued with that vigour and confidence which makes Victorian family houses so attractive.

The atmosphere at Fosseway House combines the best sort of approachability and friendliness with really top class, forward looking work; heaven forbid the craftsman become a sort of country fair ogling point, nor a practical part of wherever he lives. There are jewellers, tapestry makers, textile designers, cabinet makers, carvers and an entrancing collection of ceramic musical instruments inspired by American Indians by Neil Ions, ex RCA. There is also a splendid printmaker and painter called Christopher Noble. He calls his business the Blue Nose Press, for reasons immediately obvious to those familiar with unheated Cotswold houses. How lucky that by the same post as I heard about Fosseway House (0451 31049) I got a circular from the Federation of British Craft Societies announcing—At Last, a Pension Scheme for Craftsmen. Now you can insure against the climatic intrusiveness of Chiltern, Cotswold, or Highlands and Islands (places where the east wind would take the paint off the Forth Bridge). Arthritis, "flu" and chilblains can all be countered by writing to the FBCS at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (0451 31049).

● Craftsmen at work at the Fosseway House Workshops, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (0451 31049). Far left: Painted ceramic box open to release a twisted ceramic flute. Many of the pieces designed by Neil Ions are musical instruments—flutes or ocarinas—disguised as animals, birds, or decorative parts of larger ceramic pieces. The tone is charmingly soft and subtle. Everyone at Fosseway seems to be warbling on them. Centre: Julian Stanley and Conrad Child, wood carver and cabinet maker respectively, at work in the stables. Top: The gallery at Fosseway House. Above: Kate Baden Fuller reflected in one of her lovely mirrored pieces.

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NEW BOOKS

Sequestered labyrinth

One hundred and fifty years ago this month in Fountain Court just off the Strand, William Blake died. His countenance became fair—his eyes brightened and he burst out in "Singing of the things he saw in Heaven", wrote George Richmond to Samuel Palmer, and added more prosaically, "should you like so go to the Funeral—if you should there will be Room in the Coach".

Well, there was room in the coach and room at the graveside in Bunhill Fields, and much more room for one or two friends and one or two enthusiasts to wander in the sequestered labyrinth of Blake's achievement. Echoes may have sounded in the world outside, "mad Blake", "mystic Blake", or even, "as a friend once noted", "Blake blind by Superstition"—but of Blake the artist there was only deepening silence. That nearly forty years later, in 1863, there was published the *Life by Alexander Gilchrist and Blake* at last took his place in literary and artistic history as one of the great figures of the Romantic Movement.

These words are from a prefatory chapter in G. E. Bentley's *Blake's Books* (Oxford University Press, £4.50), whose recent publication is surely one of the most fitting tributes that could have been devised for this anniversary year. Professor Bentley has done for a new generation what he describes Sir Geoffrey Keynes as doing with the great *Bibliography of 1921*: providing the "solid grounding in fact" that is indispensable to the study of Blake, and providing it in every minute particular. Here you will find not only exhaustive descriptions of the ramifying variations in Blake's illustrated books, but also "details" of subsequent editions of Blake's engravings for commercial publishers, of his library, and of the great flood of critical *exegesis* that his work has engendered. For Gilchrist's "pictor ignotus" turned into "pictor arcane", and in the halcyon days of academic inflation there could be no more fertile territory for transatlantic thesis-hunters.

Professor Bentley remarks wistfully on "the recent proliferation of Blake scholarship and 'rubbish' rising 2,300 items under 'Biography and Criticism', plus some fury pages of 'addenda' and 'errata'—chronological sequencing in his book one would have been able to chart something of the way in which the extension paid to Blake has varied. Even so, his willingness to commit himself to brusque opinions about the performance of those whose work he cites gives a leavening to what, in other hands might have become a doggy lump."

In discussing secondary sources on Blake, Professor Bentley notes how much recent writing "simply passes over the well-known ground" and is within just such a category that one must reluctantly place the most recent Blake biography, *William Blake*, by Michael Davis (Paul, £16.75). Mr. Davis draws upon words from the Palmer circle for his subtitle, "a new kind of man" and thereby holds out some faint hope that he will be attempting that most difficult of tasks: an assessment of the balance between Blake's writing and his life. But it is clear that if he endures the judgment that he might be expected to clarify in what essential way Blake's vision differed from

The English connection

When the Riviera Was Ours

By Patrick Howarth

(Routledge, £5.95)

The cemetery at Mantua commands a view of the town, the mountains and the sea. In February mimosas explode below the black yews and the almonds stand frail in the sharp, sunny wind. Inscriptions and exuberant ironwork commemorate Italian families, French colonial soldiers ("Dahomey, 1892") and marmored Poles bursting the lid of the grave. Italy behind them, France ahead. It is, in fact, altogether so beautiful, exotic and exciting a spot that one may be forgiven for missing entirely the Rector of St. Clement Danes who, I now learn from Patrick Howarth's book, has been there since 1872.

The Reverend William Webb-Ellis, it seems, was one of the early inventors of rugger football (his son, and his son's son, were rediscovered a few years ago by Ross McWhirter). With the help of a retired military gentleman named Tiger White, a centenary game was arranged between Old Rugbeians and Merton: a service was held in the English Church and wreaths laid on the grave to the sound of trumpets from the *harmonie municipale*. The occasion forms a gentle, slightly comic and entirely apt coda to Mr. Howarth's discursive theme.

In the twenties there were two English Churches in Menton, and one Scottish one. Katherine Mansfield found a brief and temporary contentment there, but thought that Nice was *paradis des bourgeois* and Monte Carlo real hell, the element most polished place I've ever seen

a continual procession of whores, pimps, governesses in thread gloves—few—old, old hags, ancient men, stiff and greyish, panting as they climb, rich, fat, capitalists, little girls tricked out in look like babies.

S. Baring-Gould, who wrote the words for "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and forbade his daughters to read his novels or to mention the Reformation, expressed similar anti-semitic distaste and called it "the moral cesspool of Europe" (it was

the Prophetic Books are concerned). Professor David Erdman's *The Illustrated Blake* (Oxford University Press) is almost obligatory. Certainly the reader's task is not made any easier by having constantly to leaf backwards or forwards to a clump of (unrelated) reproductions in the middle of the book, but when he gets there he ought at least to find what he expects. Unfortunately however, some plates are so poorly reproduced that essential details are missing, while others—perhaps because of confusion over the pagination of Blake's originals—are either mis-numbered or are not to be found at all.

Aside from these drawbacks, though, *Blake as an Artist* proves to be yet one more assertion of the importance of seeing the writings and the pictures as a necessary unity. If we need a programme for the next hundred and fifty years it might be to make more widely accessible adequate printings of the Illuminated Books that will help the reader to see (as Blake said with a burst of *Pater-Piperian*) that the illustrations "when Printed Perfect accompany Poetical Personifications and Actus, without which Poems they never could have been executed".

Brian Alderson

Fiction

The Ice Age

By Margaret Drabble (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.25)

Coming as I did as fresh to the craft of fiction-reviewing as to the art of Margaret Drabble, as I read *The Ice Age* I proposed to myself the sort of questions I always want to ask of literary critics, and came up with the following answers:

What is the book about? About a handful of all too recognizable English people, involved in one way or another in the life of Anthony Keating, an Oxbridge-progressive-turned-property-speculator, and exacting their parts against the background of the depressed, apprehensive and almost bankrupt England of the early 1970s.

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THEATRE

2.30, **3.30**.

SCENE, **1.30**, **2.30**.

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THEATRE

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Are kids a menace to our pubs?

You may remember a couple of advertisements we ran late last year. (Then again, you may not.)

They dealt with the subject of our licensing laws on the one hand, and violence in pubs on the other.

They drew a very satisfying response. All together, 7,800 people sent in the forms or wrote letters.

More than a few of the respondents touched on the law as it relates to children in pubs.

So we thought we would raise the matter in an advertisement designed to test the strength of feeling that exists.

Dwell on the subject while making your way across a rain-swept pub car park carrying orangeades to the little ones, and it seems ridiculous that they can't sit inside where it's cosy and dry.

On the other hand, what about the other bloke's noisy little monsters. Do you really want them racketing around the bar when you've dropped in for a quiet pint and a chat?

A number of ways out of this dilemma have been suggested.

As things stand, none of them seems likely to be adopted.

But if enough people can agree on one course of action, maybe we can help things along.

However, it would be foolish to pretend that a consensus will come easily.

For instance, some people believe that allowing children into pubs will increase the chance of them becoming drunkards.

On the other hand, others feel that the presence of the family would curb any inclination Dad may have to blow his wages buying drinks for the boys.

Many other people point out that allowing children in would radically alter the character of the British pub, a unique institution.

Some see this as highly undesirable.

In fact, a small number of Whitbread pubs have rooms set aside for people with children. Alcoholic drinks aren't served in the family room but soft drinks and crisps, nuts and biscuits often are.

SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO PAY THE BILL

YOU MAY
TELEPHONE
FROM HERE



And in a few, special facilities for children are provided such as football games and blackboards. In one, we've even installed low counters and low-level wash basins.

There could be more family rooms and they could be made even more attractive if the demand for them exists.

Another alternative could be a new type of establishment - the café-cum-pub.

A place where people of all ages would be admitted and tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks would be sold as well as alcoholic drinks. (Of course, the age limit would still apply to people buying alcoholic drinks.)

It would require a change in the law for this type of establishment to come into existence, and it would mean heavy investment.

At the moment we aren't convinced that there is sufficient demand for café-cum-pubs to justify the effort.

So we would very much like to hear your views on the whole subject of children and pubs.

We'd like to have your opinion.

Do you find the current laws inconvenient? Yes No

Would you like to see café-cum-pubs without age restrictions? Yes No

Would you like to see more childrens' rooms and gardens attached to public houses? Yes No

Are you a publican? Yes No

If you wish to expand on your views expressed above, or to raise additional aspects of the problem, we would like to hear from you. Please write to:

Advertising Department, Whitbread & Co. Ltd.,
The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4SD.

Your Name _____

Address _____



WHITBREAD & CO LTD

George Ward, head of Grunwick, says categorically: 'We will not reinstate the strikers'

Why I believe the Scarman inquiry was a political 'con-trick'

Was the Scarman inquiry set up as a means by which Grunwick might be deprived of those rights guaranteed to it by English law? Was it established because Grunwick had become an exceptional nuisance to those who see Britain's future as that of a collectivist, corporate state, in which any business can be obliged to surrender to coercion and brute force without embarrassing delay? Elitist, was it in fact a political 'con-trick'? I believe this to be the case.

Though termed a "court" of inquiry, its legal powers were strictly limited to calling evidence, while its recommendations are without any legal status whatsoever. Indeed, the composition of the court suggested the nature of the recommendations that might be expected: an eminent judge, flanked on one side by a left-wing trade unionist; and, on the other, by the personnel manager of a mammoth, nationalized industrial enterprise, British Leyland, which happens to have perhaps the worst industrial relations record in the country—and that, proceeding from an almost unbroken record of surrender to extravagant union demands met only at considerable cost to the taxpayer.

The learned judge—was there to suggest the majesty and trap- pings of the law. From the terms of the tribunal's findings, it seems his key colleagues were there to provide expert guidance—not on the nature and problems of small business such as Grunwick of which they appeared to know little and understand even less—but on the corporatist arrangements which govern the relationship between big business and the unions.

Though possessed of the powers, the "court" decided to take no evidence on oath. It limited the numbers of witness-

ses heard. What might appear to some as indecent haste was justified by the "court's" insistence that its investigation must respond to the imperative of speedily conclusion. And the spotlight of publicity, of course, was to fall on the learned judge: his colleagues could beaver away in the shadows.

If justice was not to be done—and it was not—to uninformed members of the public, it was to appear to have been done.

Government spokesmen throughout advised capitulation to the strikers. Ministers of the Crown, to their eternal discredit, and without proper investigation of Grunwick's side of the case, have stood on the picket line.

Now has the Government been notably assiduous in seeking to prevent the strikers from blocking the law. Little of practical use would have been done to stop the illegal blocking of Grunwick's mail had it not been for the protection provided by the law courts. Anticipation of much of this prompted our refusal to commit ourselves in advance to the findings of the "court".

Grunwick has issued a full statement on the findings of the inquiry. Its findings I can best summarize by saying that its account of the development of the dispute bears little relation to its final recommendations. The "court" appears fogged by the provisions of the Employment Protection Act (understandable); and it has a touching faith in the implied desire of shop stewards to produce an atmosphere of industrial peace and harmony that must, at least, have given the British Leyland member of the "court" a certain measure of wry amusement.

From the moment the Government announced the Scarman inquiry, it was Grunwick feared the location behind it. The law cannot compel Grunwick to reinstate those who, for



The Grunwick film-processing company yesterday rejected almost completely the recommendations of Lord Justice Scarman's Court of Inquiry into the year-old dispute. In this article, Mr George Ward, the owner and managing director of the company, pictured above in his factory, explains the arguments and philosophy behind his company's stand.

sufficient reason, have been dismissed, either because they broke their contracts of employment, or because while rioting, they smashed up company property; or because they sought to harass and physically intimidate the existing and loyal work force.

The inconvenience of this to the Government is, of course, intensified when the violent behaviour of the strike committee's pickets outside our gates shocks and appals the nation. A Labour Government without the courage to do anything other than frown at these

adversaries happens to be not merely the wild and woolly fringes of political extremism but the concerted strength of the trade union movement, then resistance by an employer, no matter how well founded, is held to be an act of such extreme provocation as to excuse almost anything, however violent, that may be inflicted upon him.

Nor are the wishes of the Grunwick work force, expressed through two ballots undertaken at the instruction, but quite independently of, the management, by Mori and the Gallup organizations given more than cursory consideration. The polls revealed overwhelming opposition both to union representation and to reinstatement. The report implicitly recommends that these expressed views be ignored.

The working directors of Grunwick are not politicians. Our interest is in the business we have built up over the years, and our responsibility is to our workers. All of our work is not only in offices, but also on the shop floor amid our staff. If we need any encouragement to fight on, it would be provided by the choice now offered: either surrender at once and reinstate the strikers, or accept further mass-picketing and a "blackade" involving the illegal cutting-off of Grunwick's gas, electricity and water.

The Scarman report admits that Grunwick has broken no law. It concedes our right to conduct our business and to choose who shall work for us. Therefore, categorically, we will not reinstate the strikers. Indeed, our existing work force would leave us if we did.

If illegal action forces the company into liquidation, so be it. But never will we submit to force and blackmail, which disgraces everything for which Britain has always stood.

It is for others to decide whether their despair is so total that they have already abandoned the country to those who will bleed it slowly to death. But I would remind Parliament, in particular, of the words of Walter Bagehot: "When great questions end, little parties begin".

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Is science being warped by political bias?

In the past few years science has come increasingly under attack. Together with the technical advances that have been made possible by the application of science it is a scapegoat of everything that is going wrong in the world—for the population explosion, for the exhaustion of natural resources and for the threat of war. For these reasons, there are repeated suggestions that the speed of scientific discovery should be slowed and scientists ought to suppress discoveries that seem capable of being used "for the detriment of humanity". Indeed, scientists whose findings contradict fashionable social theories are accused of "distorting" their results from political prejudice.

This disturbing picture of present anomalies in scientific endeavour was painted last night by Sir Andrew Huxley, PRS, in the opening of the British Association's annual meeting in one of the most controversial presidential addresses to that body in its hundred-year existence. The abrasive content of his address, which included a large section on the sensitive issue of genetic differences between people, was not obvious in its title *Evidence, Clues, and Motives in Science*, which concluded by advising practising research workers, teachers and aspiring young scientists in his audience, that there are no permissible substitutes in science for evidence firmly based on experiment and observation.

Sir Andrew clearly sees this as a vital issue at a time when the scientific way of thinking has to fight over what it admits are serious trade union illegalities. Grunwick, it concedes, abided by the law: its adversaries did not. But, implicit is the suggestion that when the adversaries happen to be not merely the wild and woolly fringes of political extremism but the concerted strength of the trade union movement, then resistance by an employer, no matter how well founded, is held to be an act of such extreme provocation as to excuse almost anything, however violent, that may be inflicted upon him.

Perhaps the worst aspect of the Scarman report is the way it glosses over what it admits are serious trade union illegalities. Grunwick, it concedes, abided by the law: its adversaries did not. But, implicit is the suggestion that when the adversaries happen to be not merely the wild and woolly fringes of political extremism but the concerted strength of the trade union movement, then resistance by an employer, no matter how well founded, is held to be an act of such extreme provocation as to excuse almost anything, however violent, that may be inflicted upon him.

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David Basnett offers some economic advice to the Government

What the Chancellor should do now

The August figures of inemployment at 1,635,950 demonstrate that much of the talk and euphoria about economic recovery is premature as far as whole sections of the community are concerned. From the trade union point of view, these appalling unemployment figures represent a major economic problem. The trade union agreement to restrain wages over the past two years and the cuts in living standards which that restraint implied has led to a substantial diminution of inflation. It has also meant substantial improvement in the balance of payments picture, which with the influx of North Sea oil has meant that the balance of payments constraint is at last in sight of being removed from economic management. It has also contributed substantially to the revitalization of sterling, and the withstand of international monetary pressures.

The trade unions have also accepted and indeed have positively committed themselves to the aims of the Government's industrial strategy. We

recognize that in the long term the industrial strategy and these improvements in the economy will lead to some improvement in employment. But the scope for improvement of employment in manufacturing industry as a result of higher investment is limited. And in any case will take some time to materialize. What we need is some action now.

As the GMWU argued at their own congress and will argue again at the TUC next week, they need on the one hand measures to directly increase the level of employment through job subsidy and job creation accompanied on the other by a substantial degree of reflation in total economic policy, directed at restoring purchasing power and thereby improving business and employment prospects.

Compared with the very constrained situation the Government found itself in 12 months ago, we can now afford to engage on a period of expansion and reverse the deflationary trends of the past two years.

In the first place, it is now clear that the public expenditure cuts proposed by the Government were in one sense too effective. Some of those cuts have already been restored by the Chancellor's statement at the time of the budget and again in July through tax concessions. But the fact of the matter remains that the public sector borrowing requirements which had been estimated at 12 billion for last year, in fact turned out to be only 8.7 billion. The degree to which we were ever seriously in hock therefore was exaggerated substantially at that time. As a result of that over-estimate, part of the over reaction was the IMF's own limitation. But even the IMF's ceiling on public expenditure is now shown as being too high. It looks as if the actual Government deficit will be considerably short of what the IMF would itself allow. One aspect of this has been the apparent "over-kid" induced by cash limits. For example, in local authorities, the capital programme actually spent in 1976-77 was 25 per cent below the cash limit provided. Other programmes, particularly, surprisingly enough, those related directly to industry and employment, were also underspent by 10 per cent or more.

As a result of the overall economic improvement, plus the lessening constraint on the public sector it can be estimated that action taken this autumn would leave between

£11 billion and £2 billion to spare for a cut in income tax for a number of reasons:

Firstly, because it would be far quicker in its impact on economic activity. Action on VAT could be taken immediately, whereas action on income tax would, for administrative and parliamentary reasons, almost certainly have to be delayed until the budget. Lower prices rather than higher net incomes will have a more rapid effect on the expenditure of savings.

Secondly, the cut in VAT will help the lower paid differentially, and therefore make a major contribution towards the avoidance of an explosion in nominal wages.

Thirdly, it would benefit substantially the unemployed, pensioners, one-parent families and those on very low incomes who benefit not at all from a cut in income tax.

Lastly, the calculations made by economists would show that it actually has a slightly less long term effect on the public sector borrowing requirement than a cut in income tax.

It is for that reason that I would like to see side by side with increased public expenditure directed at employment and industrial regeneration, a major cut in VAT.

The cut in VAT would lead to cuts in prices, an increased demand in the shops and hence an increase in job opportunities.

It will of course be argued that a cut in VAT in certain areas

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IT IS BETTER TO LOOK FOR TRUTH

In his presidential address to the British Association last night Sir Andrew Huxley criticized the unscientific response of some scientists and of a wider public to theories of "the inherited differences of ability between families, between social classes and between different human populations". It is easy to understand this response. Such theories have become associated with a belief in the inherent inferiority of the black races and with the assumption that they will not be able to compete on equal terms with white people except in purely physical pursuits. These doctrines have therefore been seen as providing the intellectual justification for a policy of neglect that would be far from benign, and even for active discrimination. Consequently many people of goodwill have reacted instinctively against them.

But Sir Andrew is quite right to suggest that reaction on grounds both of principle and of the practical consequences. As a matter of principle it is always wrong to impede scientific inquiry and to stifle scientific discussion—the two naturally go together—because of fear of the findings. It is one of the foundations of the scientific process that knowledge must be pursued for its own sake and it would be a fallacy to assume that social policy would be more beneficial if it was formed on an incomplete knowledge of the facts rather than on a deeper understanding that can be obtained. Whether it can in this particular instance be open to doubt, it is notoriously difficult to distinguish between hereditary and environmental influences and therefore to subject theories in this field to appropriately rigorous scientific analysis. That is a warning against leaping to conclusions on the basis of inadequate evidence, not against seeking to acquire more satisfactory evidence.

The practical consequences of attempting to muffle this debate will be precisely the contrary to what many well-intentioned people suppose. It would not put a stop to much popular speculation on the relative abilities of those from different backgrounds, most especially to those different races. It would mean instead that certain assumptions, often rather crude assumptions, were not subjected to any searching examination. Right or wrong, they would remain unchallenged by the silent disaster of liberal opinion. That disaster has by itself proved of little consequence in racial matters. It may shame some, but much popular resentment has been excited in the past by the suspicion that facts of consequence for race relations have been suppressed by a conspiracy of silence. To feed such suspicions is more dangerous to race relations than to risk the propagation of facts that might seem to be embarrassing.

Just how embarrassing to race relations any new facts in this controversy might prove to be may well be questioned. This is partly because a sharp distinction must be drawn as Sir Andrew put it "between questions of fact, to be decided on evidence, and questions of the responsibility of determining social policy. By the same token we should not be afraid that any discovery of theirs will leave us no scope for doing so.

SCARMAN DOES NOT LEAD TO SETTLEMENT

Union and management in the Grunwick affair are as far apart as ever, after taking note of the Scarmen report. The union demanded on Tuesday that it would accept reinstatement of its members on strike over a period, rather than instantly, and offered a written confirmation (unenforceable) for its repeated disclaimers of any intention to seek a closed shop at Grunwick.

Yesterday the company said that it was ready to allow any employee with a grievance to be represented by union negotiators. If he or she wished, a Scarmen recommendation that had been accepted before it was made, and reiterated its absolute opposition to the reinstatement of the strikers on any terms. The dispute is in great danger of returning to displays of strength, and probably of violence, on the streets.

The four formal recommendations of Lord Scarmen's court of inquiry had an oddly cursory, almost naive, air following the analysis that it made. Three of them urged conciliatory gestures on the company, while no such gestures were proposed for the unions. Yet the report itself clearly implied that APEX, the union directly involved, had been at fault in calling for mass pickets which should have been foreseen as likely to lead to breaches of the peace by extremists. A resumption of mass picketing now would involve exactly the same dangers, all the more obvious in the light of experience. There has been much talk in this dispute about the distinction between the letter and the spirit of the law: the unions should note that although the Scarmen report faltered and failed to spell it out in the letter, in spirit it laid on them too the obligation of abuse and threats for a year could not be asked to accept it.

Mr Bhudia, who on his own admission provoked the incident that led to his own dismissal, Mrs Desai, who asked for her cards herself, and the individuals who broke windows in a violent scene at the factory, have no acceptable claim to reinstatement.

The Employment Protection Act denies the firm the option of reinstating some strikers and refusing to take others back, without laying itself open to claims for unfair dismissal. Thus provision, part of the law that the unions wrote in 1974 and 1975, is intended to prevent victimization of individuals, has rebounded in this case and in effect victimized the main body of the strikers.

Grunwick's reply notes, as it well may, that the Scarmen report almost completely discounts the fables about bad working conditions in the factory that have been put about by Mr Roy Grantham himself, among others. The terms of some of these attacks would have been defamatory except in the context of a trade dispute, and it would have been no defence to say that they would not have been made if the speakers had been allowed to examine the laboratories for themselves. There is no reason why untruths should have special privilege in this context. Indeed, the immunity of unions from actions for defamation (another product of the attempt to put trade disputes outside the law) was another factor that helped to build up the dispute into a national issue, with such mischievous effects, not only for Grunwick but far more for the whole trade union movement, which will not easily recover the respect it has already lost by pursuing its cause in this case beyond all moderation and moderation.

It would be reasonable to accept it.

Ian Paisley refuse (or so I understand) to contemplate any such thing and are allowed to do so? I believe that what I have read is something which is not said as often as it should be. (Perhaps I am a Protestant and an ardent Conservative voter.)

C. B. M. HEYWOOD
The Victory Services Club,
63/79 Seymour Street, W2.
August 24.

Colour in the census

From Ms A. Ruff
Sir, Mr Ivor Frauke's dilemma (Letter, August 23) is not in knowing which box to tick as he is neither black nor white, it is a problem which the British government may be about to create and something which both Jean Genet in his play *The Blacks* and the South African government have devised considerable attraction in. Genet writes "One evening an actor asked me to write a play for an all-black cast. But what exactly is a black? First of all what's his colour?" The South African government has had to devise several categories—Bantu, Asian, Coloured, White. (Japanese are considered to be honorary Whites.)

I sympathize with the Army's impossible position and hold no brief for any terrorist, IRA or loyalist; but the reality of the matter, I would suggest, is that the conditions which generated and, latterly, have stimulated the IRA (at any rate the Provisionals), and so occasioned the Army's presence in Ulster, should never have been allowed by British Government, and should be ended.

Mr O'Neill referred to problems disappearing when grievances are removed. In Ulster grievances remain, so the problem remains; and it will do so until the grievances are removed. The grievances, it is surely true to say, are largely legitimate, being rooted in centuries of injustice towards the Irish by the English, and since the formation of the Free State by the Ulster decades of discrimination against the Catholic minority by the Protestant hierarchy and, by and large, their supporters.

Leaving aside the question of ending partition and sticking to the Ulster situation, might not the Provisionals be reduced to relative insignificance, if the Protestant hierarchy treated the Catholics entirely as equal citizens with completely equal rights, opportunities etc (as the Protestants are treated in Eire) and with full and fair power-sharing? The main current local reason for the Provisionals and their local support could then largely disappear.

How can we expect the violence ever to end, except perhaps intermittently, until this does happen, and while leaders like Rev

takers persist in wanting to know this detail I suggest that the best and most accurate solution would be to provide a colour chart on each form, similar to those illustrating lipsticks and face powder shades, showing various shades of black/brown and white/pink, and we could tick the most approximate colour.

Or alternatively they could ask people like Mr Frank whether they "feel" black or white. Or alternatively still they could leave matters as they now stand and continue to divide the population into the only real two races which inhabit the earth, the male and the female.

Yours faithfully,

A. RUFF
10 Barn Way,
Wembury Park,
Middlesex.
August 24.

Strikes and society

From Mr J. D. Sutherland

Sir, It is sad that so many people think, like Mr Boddy (August 25) that our problems can be solved in the courts.

An American author has just castigated British motorists as among the least disciplined in the world with their suicidal refusal to put their headlights on until the last possible moment.

This lack of discipline is seen also in our attitude to work, because here again we fail utterly to see what lies ahead. How can any court cure a disease as deep seated as this?

Yours sincerely,
J. D. SUTHERLAND
41 Westella Way,
Kirkella,
North Hamsire.
August 25.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Kent will visit Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems at Rochester on October 24.

A memorial service for Margaret, Countess Alexander of Tunis, will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Friday, September 16, at noon.

Birthdays today

Brigadier J. G. Carr, 66; Sir Errol Santos, 57; Sir Dennis Proctor, 72; Lord Rutherford, 76; Lord Thomson of Fleet, 54.

Garden party

The Lord Mayor of Belfast and the city council gave a garden party yesterday in the St. George's Park, voluntary youth workers as part of the Queen's jubilee celebrations. The guests included Lord and Lady Glenorion, Lord and Lady MacDermott, and Sir Robin and Lady Kinahan.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax: tax not disclosed):

Eveson, Mr Robert Emmett, of Stourbridge, farmer .. £528,393 Hawking, Mrs Louisa Frances, of Wimbledon .. £157,542 Mathews, Sir Herbert, Reginald, of Milford-on-Sea, deceased chairman of Courtaulds, 1961-73 .. £50,229 Nicholas, Mr John Edward, of Wimblow .. £108,275 Savage, Mr Harold, of Sheffield, company chairman .. £172,534 Ward, Mr Bert, of Torquay, business .. £144,107

Latest appointments



Mr. Henry Markins, former deputy chairman of British Airways, above, takes over the chairmanship of the British Tourist Authority today. He succeeds Sir Alexander Gledhill.

Other appointments include: Mr Peter Thornton, aged 32, to be editor of Independent Radio News, and Mr Keith Belcher, aged 37, to be programmes controller of London Broadcasting.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon. H. A. N. Orde-Powlett and Miss P. A. Tappi

The engagement is announced between Harry, eldest son of Lord and Lady Bolton of Wensley, Yorkshire, and Philippa, daughter of Major P. L. Tappi, of Wanstead, London, and Mrs S. A. Tappi, of Heswall, Cheshire.

Mr W. J. Brownlow and Miss M. A. M. C. Gratiot

The engagement is announced between William James, son of Mr and Mrs James Brownlow, of Belliegum House, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, and Amanda Mary Clogh, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gratiot, of Lake House, Lake, Selbyshire, Wilts.

Mr J. D. Haak and Miss A. E. Wickins

The engagement is announced between Jonathan Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Haak, of Upplands, Hawley, Liss, Hampshire, and Annabelle Edith, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Wickins, of West Acres, Level Mare Lane, Epsom, Surrey.

Mr J. P. H. S. Scott and Miss G. M. Dafydd

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. H. Euscombe-King, of 73 Murrayfield Gardens, Edinburgh, and Gwilym, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. D. Dafydd, of Meadow House, Woodham Walter, Essex.

Mr A. Wilson and Mrs I. James

The engagement is announced between Andrew Wilson, of Wimborne, and Isabel James, of Paris, OBE.

Mr R. B. Juvrin and Miss J. B. Boisseneaux de Chevigny

The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Vice-Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Janevin, of Allens Close, Chalford Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Isabelle, daughter of M. and Mme Yann de Boisseneaux de Chevigny, of 14 Avenue du General Leclerc, 60500 Chantilly, France.

Mr P. T. Courtney and Miss P. A. E. Boncote

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Colonel and Mrs P. T. Courtney, of The Chantry, Beavers Hill, Farnham, Surrey, and Mollie, daughter of the late Dr T. W. G. Duncote and Mrs M. D. Duncote, of Wyndley, Clifton Drive, Summa, Coldfield, Warwickshire.

Mr R. W. Mathias and Miss E. Wrabel

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of the late Group Captain G. S. M. Inall, VC, MC, and of Mrs Inall of Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, and Jeannette, daughter of Squadron Leader F. L. Thomsit, BEM, and Mrs Thomsit, of Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

Squadron Leader D. H. Inall and Miss J. L. A. Thomsit

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Mr H. W. J. Stubbs and Miss E. M. G. Hill

The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Scott of Gals, of Galashiels, Scotland, and Jacqueline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Rae, of Tarpole, Cheshire.

Mr W. A. Wilson and Mrs N. Berryman

The engagement is announced between William, son of the late James Wilson and Mrs J. Walton, of Ballymena, Co. Antrim, and Maureen, widow of Noel Berryman, of Paris, France.

Mr J. P. H. S. Scott and Miss G. M. Dafydd

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LAING

LOCAL
OR NATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Leading insurance groups boost CBI influence by joining membership revival

By Michael Corlett

Three leading insurance companies and organisations have joined the Confederation of British Industry, following a significant revival in membership.

The decision of the insurance world to participate in the CBI is an important one, since it enlarges the sphere of influence in the City and represents another move towards the creation of a "Confederation of British business".

Mr John Methven, director-general of the CBI, is proving to be a popular figure. Businessmen seem to like his style after a year in the job of careful consultation and representation of their interests in Whitehall.

Active recruitment of new members is taking place in the insurance industries, a big success for Mr Methven could be the admission into membership of Marks & Spencer. Hopes are high of persuading even GEC, a glaring omission from the list of big CBI names, to sign up.

Mr Methven has begun to pay considerable attention to smaller companies. He hopes to recruit strongly in this sector, where the CBI has a traditional presence, but has not always devoted sufficient resources to studying and representing their case.

Meanwhile, CBI preparations



Mr. Methven: Businessmen like his style

are well advanced for the organization's first annual conference at Brighton in November.

A big attendance now seems assured, and resolutions are being invited from standing committees, regional councils and trade associations to ensure wide-ranging debates.

Industrial democracy, pay,

and the economy are bound

US decision soon in skytrain battle

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Aug. 31

American Civil Aeronautics Board is likely to decide by the end of next week on whether or not to permit Delta, Pan American, Pan American and British Airways to start services between New York and London which directly compete with the proposed Trans Air lines skytrain.

According to Vogt, informed sources, the board will hear arguments from representatives of the airlines at a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday before it makes a decision.

The issue before the board amounts to whether to "test" whether Delta's plan for low-cost services had been compromised.

Informed sources suggested that the board may decide to approve the low-cost fares for an experimental period during

which it studies in depth the allegations made by the Justice Department.

The more immediate consideration for the board is another brief by the Justice Department which suggested that the main airlines cannot make profits on the low fares that they have announced.

The department said the airlines aimed to hold prices down solely to force Laker Airways out of business and, once this had been achieved, to raise fares once again.

Mr. Freddy Laker, who was in Washington last week and now members of the Civil Aeronautics Board, no doubt hopes that the board will accept the Justice Department's views and so decide against the low fares proposed by the big airlines.

To do this, however, could result in a storm of protest from consumer organizations here and undermine the board's claim that it is now moving on a course which strives to increase competition and thus produce lower air fares.

Signs of progress seen in Anglo-Soviet shipping talks

By Our Industrial Correspondent

A delegation of British Government officials and representatives of the General Council of British Shipping has just returned from talks with Soviet officials on shipping. The negotiations followed a visit by Mr. Tamotsu Gushenko, Soviet minister for merchant marine earlier this year.

The discussions concentrated on the scope for free, fair and orderly development of shipping trades and did not touch on specific Western worries about Soviet rate cutting and disruption of conference arrangements, apart from examples being given.

The United Kingdom team was led by Mr. David Lanchin, head of the foreign shipping policy division of the Department of Trade, and included Mr. Sandy Marshall, managing director of P. & O. and chairman of the foreign shipping policy division of the GCSB.

Nigeria seeks \$1,000 loan in Euromarkets

By Ronald Fullon

Banking Correspondent

Mr. Marshall said he believed that the talks marked the beginning of some progress, "but time will tell." Much depended on further discussions in international trades, and the outcome of consultations which both sides would be having with their international partners.

The United Kingdom party had been impressed by the constructive approach adopted by the Soviet negotiators and their desire to understand the British position better. "We were particularly encouraged by positive statements that the USSR supports the conference system and that Soviet lines wish to participate in conference arrangements, apart from examples being given," Mr. Marshall said.

Further talks at official level, it is hoped, ministerial level, are due to take place before the end of next month. Mr. Marshall paid particular tribute to the "statesmanlike" approach adopted by Mr. Igor Avarin, the leader of the Soviet team.

Iran has developed into a heavy borrower over the past 18 months. Venezuela has arranged two loans totalling \$2,200m since last October, and earlier this year Qatar, too, arranged its maiden Euroloan.

As with Venezuela, Nigeria will use the money to finance the development of its infrastructure.

Citibank inquiry into \$3m 'fraud'

Rome, Aug. 31—Citibank said today that it was investigating a possible fraud of up to \$3m (about £1.7m), involving its Rome branch.

A spokesman for the New York bank said that the amount that might be recovered could not be determined until after completion of the investigation. He declined to provide any details on how the alleged fraud was carried out.

But the president of the small Garibaldi & Porpora Bank of Paganica, near Naples, told reporters that one of the men involved was a small-account holder who suddenly began transferring huge sums of money with guaranteed cashier's cheques from Citibank.

It was believed that many of the cashier's cheques were not covered by funds at Citibank's Rome branch, Sir Arturo de Pascale, the bank's president, said.

Four private companies were named by the Turin newspaper La Stampa as being connected with the investigation—Reuter,

Walter Alexander Limited

ANNUAL RESULTS

Year to 31 March	1977	1976
Revenue	£200	£200
Pre-tax profits	27,086	20,404
Earnings per share	1.946	1.253
Dividends per share—Gross	13.48p	8.87p
Dividends per share—Net	6.44p	5.77p
	4.25p	3.75p

Points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Walter Alexander

- Record year for group. Profits exceed forecast made at time of group going public.
- All main divisions contributed to increased profits, with filter division profits almost trebled.
- First three months of current year on budget. Further increase in group profits anticipated.

The Company's shares are traded on The Over-the-Counter Market. Details of this market, together with copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from H. E. Johnson CA, at the registered office of the company, 22 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HQ. Telephone 041-222-2222.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

NCR

Computers & Terminals

NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1.

Finland follows trend with 3.1pc devaluation

By Caroline Atkinson

Finland's mark was devalued by 3.1 per cent against a basket of currencies yesterday in the latest of the present spate of currency adjustments which has followed the Swedish abandonment of the European currency snake last weekend.

The move had been foreshadowed by a statement from Mr. Kalem Sorsa, the Prime Minister, that he was seeking agreement with unions and employers on a new rate for the currency.

By the time the decision was announced at 4.20 pm many of the European foreign exchanges had closed. So market reaction cannot yet be gauged.

However, a larger movement had been widely expected after the 10 per cent Swedish devaluation, and 5 per cent devaluation of the Danish and Norwegian crowns.

The close ties between the Scandinavian economies mean that their exchange rates tend to move together.

Finland's decision to limit its devaluation to 3 per cent was influenced by opposition from the Communists in the cabinet, and from unions, to a downward movement in the currency which would push up prices.

Last April the Finnish mark was devalued by 5.7 per cent against a basket of currencies.

Yesterday's devaluation was part of a number of measures including a 1 per cent cut in bank rate, to 8.25 per cent, and government pledges to cut oil and utility taxes on electricity used by industry and to tighten price controls.

Foreign exchange markets continued to be nervous yesterday in the wake of the Scandinavian devaluations, although conditions were a little quieter than on Tuesday. The three chief Scandinavian currencies all lost ground against the Deutsche mark in afternoon trading in Frankfurt.

The Danish crown came under the most pressure, and there is some feeling that its 5 per cent devaluation within the snake was too small.

Dealers are predicting that other weak currencies may follow the Scandinavians downwards. The chief candidates for a devaluation in the near future are the Belgian franc and the Austrian schilling.

The Spanish and Portuguese currencies have already been forced down this year by their gaping trade deficits.

The French franc is also tipped to come down against the strong currencies, and may also lose ground against the dollar over the rest of the year. There was, however, little initial market reaction to 1 per cent cut in the French bank rate (to 9.5 per cent), which was announced yesterday as part of a package of measures.

Sterling continued to be in strong demand on the exchanges yesterday, gaining 6 points against the dollar to close at \$1.7429. This is the highest rate against the United States currency for nearly a year.

Its effective rate index was unchanged from the high of 62.3 reached on Tuesday, with the Bank of England intervening at 1 per cent over the rest of the year. There was, however, little initial market reaction to 1 per cent cut in the French bank rate (to 9.5 per cent), which was announced yesterday as part of a package of measures.

Under the building contract, the first of the ships on the Indonesia-Japan route is already in service and the other vessels are due to enter service at three-monthly intervals.

Revised arrangements involving the ownership of the vessels agreed earlier this year led to the cancellation of orders for two large liquefied natural gas carriers which were to have been built by the American General Dynamics group for transporting gas between Indonesia and Japan.

The American company, which was to have built the ships at its Quincy shipyard for delivery towards the end of 1979, confirmed that the contracts for the two ships had been cancelled under a provision of the building contract.

Cancellation of the orders was indicated as a strong possibility at the Burnham annual general meeting earlier this year.

Burnham's long shipbuilding programme in the United States was at the centre of a storm earlier this year involving the application for American government loan guarantees which were eventually approved and involved some £450m.

The new company is to be named Northern Engineering Industries, and dealings in its securities are expected to start on September 21. It is likely to have a market capitalization of around £54m and an annual turnover of £400m.

The success of the merger marks the end of an extremely complex set of negotiations, complicated by the fact that both companies were involved in differing aspects of the reorganization of the United Kingdom power generation industry this year.

GEC wins £13m deal

GEC Telecommunications has won export orders worth nearly £13m for transmission systems in Nigeria. The company completed the £10m Nigerian telecommunications transmission network in 1975 and since then has won Nigerian orders worth £20m.

As with Venezuela, Nigeria will use the money to finance the development of its infrastructure this year.

Iran has developed into a heavy borrower over the past 18 months. Venezuela has arranged two loans totalling \$2,200m since last October, and earlier this year Qatar, too, arranged its maiden Euroloan.

As with Venezuela, Nigeria will use the money to finance the development of its infrastructure.

Under the terms of this deal, GEC will supply a range of equipment for the Nigerian telecommunications network, including microwave, optical fibre and radio links, as well as switching and control systems.

The deal is part of a larger package of contracts worth £20m for the Nigerian telecommunications industry.

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Hitachi plant proposal attacked

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

If the Hitachi television assembly factory gets a government go-ahead for the north-east of England, most British television manufacturers will be forced to cut the number of tubes bought from Mullard, Britain's single remaining television tube manufacturer, the Radio Industry Council said yesterday.

This could mean the closure of one Mullard factory with the loss of at least 2,000 jobs.

These warnings were sent yesterday by the council to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, backed up strongly by Mullard.

A memorandum from the council to Mr Varley was the industry's final attempt to deflect the Government from giving the go-ahead to an Hitachi plant at Washington New Town, near Newcastle upon Tyne. A decision by the Department of Industry is expected this month.

There is strong trade union backing to turn down the Hitachi plant. An appeal for help has gone to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and the situation is expected to be aired at the TUC Congress.

Briefly

Davy gains Yugoslavian £35m order

Davy International said its Davy Powersys subsidiary won a £25m contract from In Petrokemiya to design and supply five plants for a new fertiliser complex at Kudna, Croatia, Yugoslavia.

The plants will process nitric acid, ammonium nitrate, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid and granulated fertilisers.

The contract will be financed by United Kingdom credit facilities backed by the Exports Credits Guarantee Department.

Back to normal at Plessey

A five-day sit-in at a Plessey hydraulics factory at Swindon, Wiltshire, ended yesterday, when 600 shopfloor workers voted to allow management to resume control of the plant. The dispute began when 600 foundry workers were laid off. Their time rate issue was settled after talks with the management. Tarmac International yesterday announced the signing of a £25m contract for the expansion of Aqaba port in Jordan. Tarmac's joint venture partners are Shafin Engineering and Contracting.

Frozen deliveries

Freezers delivered to the British market in June totalled 70,650, according to figures published by the Food Freezer and Refrigerator Council. This is against 80,235 in June, 1976—a decrease of 12 per cent.

LEGAL NOTICES

The council's memorandum records unanimous opposition in the industry to any further Japanese investment in television manufacture in Britain.

Particularly, the council is not convinced that the Government's condition for the use of 50 per cent of British components by Hitachi would be adhered to for any period of time unless legally enforced.

According to the council, the two Japanese companies already established in the United Kingdom, Sony and National Panasonic, are planning substantial output increases which will pose a "major challenge" to the British industry.

"A further inward investment by the Japanese at this juncture would really be the last straw," says the council.

The arrival of Hitachi would not only increase British manufacturing capacity at a time when there is already serious overcapacity in the domestic set-making industry, the council points out.

It would also imperil a plan now being discussed among British makers for increasing their intake of Mullard colour tubes at the expense of imports, including some from Japan.

Mr Jack Akerman, managing director of Mullards, said last night there were hopes

that the plan could take Mullard production up from its present 1.1 million a year to the 1.5 million needed to make its British factories profitable.

Mr Akerman dismissed exploratory talks which have been going on between Mullard and Hitachi, on the Japanese company possibly taking a proportion of Mullard tubes, as "unlikely to produce any additional orders".

At best, Hitachi orders could merely offset orders from British manufacturers, he said.

A warning by the council says Hitachi manufacture in Britain would "weaken the position of United Kingdom set-makers and, accordingly, considerably reduce their ability to support the components industry".

Mr Akerman said that although Mullard, a Philips subsidiary, could rely on continuing to supply domestic manufacture by Philips and Pyle, a wholesale switching of orders could well bring Mullard down to an annual production of between 700,000 and 800,000 tubes.

If that happened, by 1980 it would probably mean cutbacks involving some 2,000 jobs.

Move to extend Lucas strike

By R. W. Shakespeare

As shop stewards representing striking Lucas tool room workers voted yesterday for a continuation of the eight-week-old stoppage, the number of British Leyland car workers made idle by this, and other shop floor unrest, rose to more than 19,000.

The situation in the car industry is likely to become worse after a decision by the tool room men's leaders to call for a blacking of imported components by other groups of workers, including those at the

docks and airports. Assembly lines in some motor plants have been relying on components brought in from abroad to keep operations running.

The 1,200 Lucas tool room men are on strike in support of pay demands, having rejected a company offer of a £3 a week bonus increase plus a £100 a head lump sum payment to cover most bonus earnings during a period when they were working to rule before the strike began on July 4.

They are striking to their demands for at least £5 a week more and after yesterday's decision mad idle rose to more than 15,000.

Fincantieri restructuring to cover losses of £24m

From John Earle

Rome, Aug. 31

After hearing a gloomy report from the board on the outcome for shipbuilding in Europe, the annual meeting of Fincantieri, which controls the greater part of Italian shipping production, approved a capital reconstruction operation to cover losses and to prepare for future contingencies.

The meeting also approved the annual accounts to April 30, 1977, which registered a loss of 38,600m lire (about £24m), after a loss in 1976 of 15,000m lire.

Capital has been reduced from 150,000m lire to 67,500m lire an 8 per cent to be raised again to 150,000m lire. Fincantieri is the shipbuilding holding company of the troubled Parastatal Iri (Istituto per la Riconstruzione Industriale) conglomerate.

The board's report stressed that shipbuilding in Europe

was preoccupied with Japanese and South Korean competition. Japanese yards, quoting prices as much as 40 per cent below European ones, had increased their share of world markets to 66 per cent in the first four months of this year.

In addition, the report said, Italian yards were affected by the difficulties of the economy and, despite numerous negotiations, Fincantieri firms had been unable to secure new international orders during 1976. Contracts had been placed for 10 units for the Parastatal Finmare group and for eight units for the navy.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

August goes out on a symbolic note

August, which proved to be a near-vintage month in the stock market, duly went out on a symbolic note when the FT ordinary share index finally climbed over the 500 mark last evening. On the occasions like this the market is quick to find superlatives.

The political sensitivity of the report is likely to be low since little that the non-ferrous fabricators produce goes directly to the consumer, but could go a long way to explain what often seems an anomalous price structure between different types of fabrication. IMI and Glynwedd's tubes, for example, produce returns that are not seen on many other semis.

All the groups have been good investors but they do occupy monopoly or near-monopoly positions in a market which has proved fairly impervious to importers, while being of major importance to the engineering and building sectors.

Generally building products are currently the laggards, and diversifications, particularly at Delta, have tended to move more into this area. But IMI generally shows a picture of stronger engineering demand than from the building sector, and there are few signs of any improvement. Demand for copper tube, both for central heating and industrial use, however, remains strong, and IMI's greater engineering bias is likely to work through to its results earlier than to other groups. Its profitability, may, however, make it more sensitive to any monopolies investigation, although recent reports have proved fairlyodyne.

IMI has performed better than the market over the last 12 months but is below its relative best. Its zip interest, after a sharp improvement last year, are unlikely to repeat that performance, and unless there is a sharp increase in demand in the fourth quarter full year profits of £40m are not going to excite the market. The prospective yield of 7.7 per cent at 65p is above average, but there seems no reason to think it will outperform.

If they are right then this market has further to go, though with world trade prospects continuing to look uninspiring and with so many doubts about what happens to interest rates and over the next three or four months no one should expect the autumn to be quite as exciting as August has been.



Sir Michael Clapham, chairman of Imperial Metal Industries.

copper rod, but much better on wire, and it is difficult to look at wire in isolation.

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Royal Worcester Overseas ambitions

Royal Worcester's disappointing performance at the half-year stage contrasts starkly with buoyant reports from Wedgwood and, though many of Royal Worcester's difficulties are unique to the company, the results do highlight the central problems of the fine china industry.

The problems are those of a traditional business with prestige names leading the marketing operations and a need to expand overseas. Royal Worcester's chairman, Sir Ronald Fairfield, points out that Britain has a natural market leadership position, at least at the premium end.

In the home market that combination seems to be working, but it is overseas where any real growth must come and specifically it is in North America where the product names alone have in the past given British companies a head start.

The unexpected flat behaviour of the United States economy has been a problem, though this year it does look as though overall sales have been holding up quite well. But the market is expected to become increasingly competitive and the Japanese penetration at the cheaper end is seen as an ominous sign.

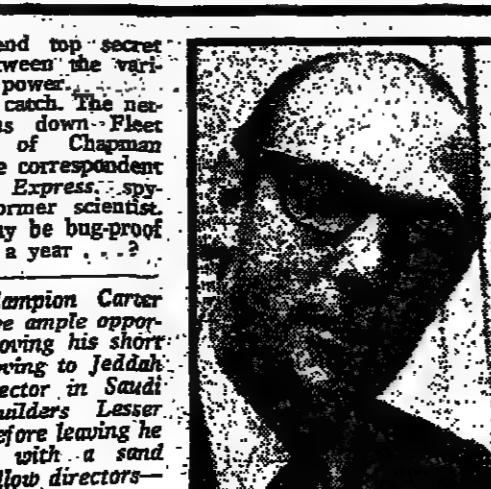
Wedgwood responded well to the challenge in North America and the benefits are already visible. Denbyware and Royal Worcester both found themselves in a terrible muddle and for the latter the question is whether the drastic steps it has now taken to put things in order will be the right ones.

The whole of the company's ornamental and tableware interests are now merged into Royal Worcester Spode, of which it owns 55 per cent with Corbarundum holding the rest. The operational problems of the merger, particularly in North America, have proved immense and the half-time figures include an additional stock provision for RWS of £227,000, most of which concerns the American operations. The outcome is a fall in attributable pre-tax profits from £612,000 to £553,000.

The hope must now be that the problems since the merger with Spode have laid the foundation for some real export-led growth from Royal Worcester which has appointed a new chief executive at RWS, Mr Lyn Davies, whose track record in the industrial ceramics division has been good.

So, the shares at 120p, down 10p yesterday, are at a prospective yield of 8.1 per cent and p/e ratio of 7.1 which for the moment seems a sensibly cautious rating.

Business Diary: Paying the piper • Westons prescription



Keen golfer Captain Carter should soon have ample opportunity for improving his short game. He is moving to Jeddah as resident director in Saudi Arabia for builders Lesser International. Before leaving he was presented with a sand wedge by his fellow directors for bunker practice.

Peter Van Oss is leaving Max Factor after only a year as deputy to managing director Neville Strange to become managing director of Westons Chemists.

Westons, which has about 200 shops, has proved a thorn in the side of its parent company, Dixons Photographic, ever since Dixons took over the firm in a £10.5m deal early last year.

Dixons' chairman and managing director, Stanley Kelsall, was joined to find that Westons, pharmaceutical producer, Barlow Fine Chemicals, was losing much more money than he had first thought.

The plant at Rawdon, Yorkshire, has since been closed, most of the 180 employees losing their jobs. Ralph Weston, chief executive of Westons, resigned last year shortly after the Dixons board.

A quick look at the LDP network shows that the main system is now among the places right down. Whittlebury and along Millbank and there are branches off into many government buildings such as the Treasury, the Foreign Office and even the Houses of Parliament. So the system could

be used to send top secret information between the various corridors of power.

There is one catch. The new work also runs down Fleet Street, home of Chapman Pincher, defence correspondent of the Daily Express, spy-watcher and former scientist. Fibre optics may be bug-proof, but given a year . . . ?

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Why America cannot afford to ignore its blacks

The social, economic and political condition of America's black population has improved dramatically over the past two decades.

Today there are black city mayors, black congressmen, increasing numbers of blacks owning their own businesses and rising numbers with university degrees.

Nevertheless, the general condition of America's blacks is still quite appalling and the degree to which the non-ferrous fabricators produce goes directly to the consumer, but could go a long way to explain what often seems an anomalous price structure between different types of fabrication. IMI and Glynwedd's tubes, for example, produce returns that are not seen on many other semis.

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If they are right then this market has further to go, though with world trade prospects continuing to look uninspiring and with so many doubts about what happens to interest rates and over the next three or four months no one should expect the autumn to be quite as exciting as August has been.



About a third of America's 25 million blacks live in poverty, many of them in the poorest parts of the big cities, like the South Street area of Lower Manhattan, New York, above.

Live in squalor and work under conditions that legal officials describe as little better than slavery".

The current condition of black Americans was symbolized by a small episode in Arizona recently. A black taxi-driver said that years ago he could not get a job because he was under-qualified, and today, after having got a university engineering degree, he was being denied jobs on the ground that he was over-qualified.

It is difficult to disagree with this view when it is recognized that many of them have outstanding academic qualifications and considerable business experience, and yet there are still no prominent blacks heading the very largest banking and manufacturing companies in the country.

In Atlanta, Georgia, for example, the only black faces I saw recently at luncheons in the city's leading business clubs—the Capital City Club and the Commerce Club—were those of the waiters.

There are no black faces to be seen at the regular meetings of the American Business Council or at meetings of leading American bankers and stockbrokers.

It is very difficult to refute the charges that are often made by prominent black Americans. Mr James Baldwin, the novelist, noted recently, for example, that the black remains "the last to be hired and the first to be fired" in American business.

He added: "It does not surprise me that white high school graduates earn more than black college graduates . . . it is simply because they are white."

Mr Julian Bond, a prominent State Senator in Georgia, said in a recent interview that it remained a fact that the condition of blacks in the rural south of the United States was today not all that much better than it was 100 years ago.

He said that many southern small towns were still frightening places for blacks, where racial prejudices remained very strong.

His point was illustrated in an article from Benson, North Carolina, published on the front page of the *New York Times* on August 29.

It noted that migrant workers in this small town "continue to

his commitment to balance the Federal Budget by 1981.

Almost all economists agree that there is no way the President can greatly reduce the unemployment rate, launch new urban housing and welfare programmes and balance the budget at the same time.

The President is going to be forced increasingly by the trade union leaders and the leaders of America's black population to abandon his budget target.

He may find that he has no choice other than to do this if he wants to be re-elected. He will maintain the voting support of America's blacks only if, to quote Mr Bond, he "shows what he is prepared to do to repay those who worked for him" in the 1976 campaign.

America's blacks will be satisfied only with quite massive public works, social, urban renewal and housing programmes.

In the long term the budget can be balanced only when far more blacks are contributing taxes, rather than obtaining benefits from the government. In addition, there is absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind that there is a strong link between the high crime level in America and the deprivation of the black American.

Time Magazine reported recently that some 55 per cent of all those who were arrested for looting shops when New York had its power failure in July were unemployed.

The crime rates in big American cities like Detroit and Chicago and New York have risen in line with the unemployment rate, and the greatest increases in unemployment have been seen among non-white Americans in these cities.

The widespread looting in New York is widely being viewed as a warning of possibly worse things to come. Some of the big northern cities could face serious riots if the sort seen a decade ago if the demand of inadequate economic opportunities are not swiftly

Many local and state politicians are breathing a sigh of relief that such riots have not taken place in this long and hot summer.

Thus, maintaining social stability and ensuring economic growth in America is going to depend upon the efforts made in improving the condition of America's racial minorities—most notably the blacks, but also the roughly 3.7 million other non-whites legally resident in the country (plus, of course, the countless hundreds of thousands of illegal residents).

Such is the condition of black Americans today that there is absolutely no justification for the complicity so evident on encountering so many white business leaders, who rightly claim that much has been done to improve the condition of the black American in recent years.

Much more needs still to be done—and urgently.

Frank Vogl

Economic notebook

Where has all the investment gone?

The failure of the sluggish, two-year-old economic recovery to gain momentum in most of the industrialized nations arises in large measure from the continuing weakness of investment spending by companies on new productive capacity.

Historically, capital investment has played an important role in spurring national economies out of recession, and it is not only the British Government that is relying heavily on business investment to spearhead the revival this time.

Yet what appears to be happening is that businessmen, anxious to remain competitive in a static market, have increased the rate of scrapping and replacement, at the expense of investing in new capacity and expanding their productive base to meet expected future demand.

The problem is that while, on the one hand, changes in the relative cost of input prices might be expected to stimulate investment in new, more efficient forms of production, they simultaneously have the effect of reducing the profits which must be generated to pay for new investment. Profitability is, indeed, at the heart of the investment problem.

A secular decline in profitability—measured as the gross rate of return on capital assets—was evident in the United States, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom since the middle or late 1950s, or even longer. This is generally acknowledged. The more controversial question is what caused this decline in profitability.

There would seem to be more than one influence at work. The increasing relative cost of energy, environmental protection and labour have already been mentioned.

In particular, the increasing relative cost of labour has been frequently singled out. But the position is not wholly clear. The increase in labour costs relative to output prices ought, theoretically, to encourage companies to invest in more capital-intensive and less labour-intensive processes.

Curiously, there is little evidence of this happening. For a greater ratio of machines to labour would lead to an acceleration in the growth of labour productivity. There are few countries where there are signs of such a trend.

One possibility is that the risks attaching to new investments are today perceived to be much higher than in earlier years, and therefore higher returns on capital are required to induce capital spending. A lower premium may be attached to avoiding being caught with deficient capacity in an upswing than being caught with excess capacity in a downswing.

Another possibility is that the increasing proportion of debt in the balance sheets of companies in many countries has now grown inordinately high. Debt-equity ratios have risen almost everywhere.

The only point that is clear is that more resources have somehow to be channeled into productive investment and that this will not happen until governments are prepared to allow the real costs of energy, environmental protection and labour, relative to output prices.

WEIR

THE WEIR GROUP LIMITED INTERIM STATEMENT

Results for 25 weeks ended 24th June, 1977

Subject to Audit

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

25 weeks to 26th June 1977	25 weeks to 26th June 1976	25 weeks to 30th Dec 1976
£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
TURNOVER		
The Group	£1,380	56,841
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAX		
The Group	5,392	4,665
Associated Companies	576	440
	5,968	5,105
Interest payable less receivable	1,438	1,746
	4,530	3,359
Estimated Tax	1,900	1,241 </

TELEFUSION

Summary of Results

Year to April 1977	1977	1976
	£m	£m
Turnover ex V.A.T.	62.0	44.0
Profit before Taxation	3.1	1.1
Cash Flow	9.4	7.7
Earnings per Share	6.4p	1.2p

Final Dividend of 0.620273p per share recommended which together with interim of 0.55p represents the maximum permissible under Government dividend restraint.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 23rd September 1977 and Annual General Meeting will be held on 20th October 1977.

PRESTON NEW ROAD · BLACKPOOL · FY4 4QY

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The Renwick Group Limited
(Registered in England No. 247231)

**Issue of 750,000 10 per cent.
Convertible Cumulative
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of £1 each at par.**

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Particulars of the New Preference Shares are available in the statistical services of Exel Statistical Services Limited and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 16th September, 1977 from:

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited,
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Augustine House, Austin Friars, London EC2N 2JL

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9 Moorfields Highwalk, London EC2Y 9DS.

**AMC
Announcement**

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited announce that with effect from 1st September, 1977

the rate of interest for

EXISTING VARIABLE RATE LOANS

REVIEWED QUARTERLY

will be

11%

Borrowers whose loans are reviewed on a six monthly basis will continue to pay 12%.

Both rates will remain in force until 1st December, 1977, the date of the next review.

Until further notice, the rate of interest will apply to

NEW VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

11%

For full details of this and other facilities please contact The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited, Bucklersbury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 8DU. Tel. 01-248 5711.

11%

FINANCIAL NEWS

Slough Ests
reverses
cautious
forecast

By Ashley Druker

Through still returning pedigree profits for the opening half of 1977, Slough Estates looks to the future better. Total net profit is £10.1m, even though the group's profit is somewhat lower than profit in 1977. Prospects for 1978 are several degrees brighter in the wake of increased activity.

In the latest half-year profit statement to June 24, the group turned in a pre-tax surplus of £4.5m against £3.5m last time. Turnover rose from £56.8m to £81.4m leaving pre-tax margins down from 5.9 to 5.5 per cent.

However, Lord Weir, chairman, says the blame for this decline on the heavy shipments of desalination plant to the Middle East. Only a small proportion of expected profit has been taken at this stage.

Generally, the board spans that allows the rate after the completed office block in Sheffield, and mainly under, and the one in Rue de Luxembourg, Brussels remains static. Overall prospects for the remainder of 1977 are not much better as a result of increased lending activity.

The directors are confident of a full-year result that will top the record £6.1m of 1976, and they forecast the maximum permitted dividend for the full year.

In the United Kingdom, demand for factories and warehouses is on the upswing, and further construction has started at Slough, Yate and Aberdeen. On the utility services side, sales of electricity, water and gas have improved.

Overseas, new construction has started up in Australia, Canada and the United States because of better letting conditions. In Australia two new properties have been bought, including seven acres of industrial land in Melbourne close to the group's successful Waverley Estate. The other purchase is 14 acres of land in Sydney and some 110,000 sq ft of existing factory buildings at Alexandria, near the international airport and city centre. Work will start on both sites before the year-end.

The latest half-year profits reflect increased interest charges for certain developments completed in 1976 but not yet leased. Accounting charges also marginally affect the comparison.

Of gross turnover in the half, United Kingdom rentals advanced by £4.3m to £5.15m (against £2.5m for 1976), over 80 per cent from £1.2m in 1975.

Overseas rentals, up 22.4m (some 24.0m for 1976), the main order concern, which it built up in 1973 and 1974.

Out of the total, resulting of 4.7 million shares, Sears sold 4.2 million shares by means of a placing through the stock market by its brokers, Joseph Sebag.

In a statement at the time, Sears said the disposal had produced a "satisfactory" profit and had released more than £9m to augment existing cash resources available to the Sears group.

Cockerill's big loss

Cockerill SA, the Belgian steel company, may suffer a loss of over £200m francs (about £120m) in 1977 and certainly will not make a profit.

A spokesman said the board had been informed of Cockerill's grave situation, noting that accumulated losses may amount to half of the company's assets by the year-end. In the first half, Cockerill had an operating loss of 2,600m francs and a loss of 3,820m francs after debts.

Most of the improvement of results from the integration of recently acquired Gellert, Bony and the expansion of offices throughout the world. And Lord Kissin, chairman, is confident that there is still also more to come from this expansion.

The bulk of profits comes from International Services which increased its contribution last year from £2.8m to £5.2m. Although profits from the copper and pyrites side of the business also improved, this now accounts for less than 10 per cent of earnings.

On turnover and fee income up 20m to £10.5m, Esperanza Trade and Transport also doubled pre-tax profits from £2.5m in 1976 to £5.1m in Mexico, 21 last year.

As a result of the improvement of the year just past, there has been a marked improvement in the company's cash flow, much improved, the directors' statement to start 1978, "in the year ahead."

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Motoring

A profitable gap found and now filled

Never let it be said that Britain is no longer the land of opportunity. It is simply that these days opportunities are less clearly signposted. So it takes a special combination of flair, far-sightedness and commercial astuteness first to identify them, and then exploit them.

Who, for example, would have said in 1971-a year when long established car manufacturers, large and small alike, were racing for survival that the path to fame and fortune was to be found within the motor industry?

One person who thought so was Robert Jankel, the managing director of a textile company who found greater satisfaction in building himself replicas of classic-type cars from yesterday than he did in running his family business.

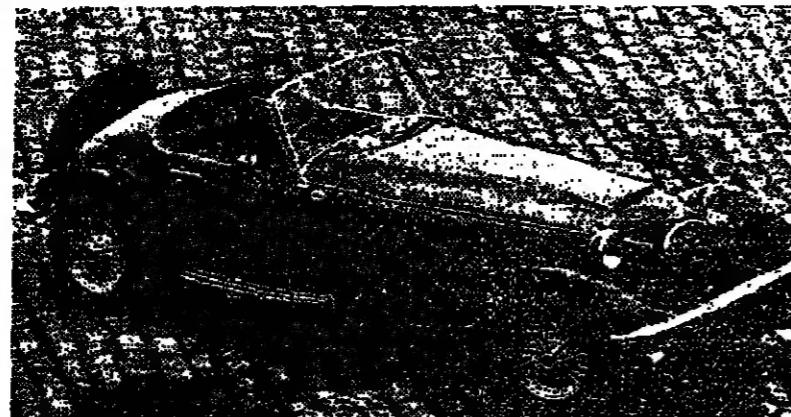
Trained as an automotive engineer, and dedicated to perfection, the quality of his craftsmanship was such that very quickly his friends were queuing up for something similar. Whether by chance or shrewd judgment he had exposed a significant gap in the specialist car field, and armed with a modest £7,000 working capital he decided to plug it. The company he formed, Panther West Winds, is now the hub of a group of related yet autonomous firms based in premises at Bifield, Surrey, and concerned not just with the design and production of exotic cars in the classic mould, but with customer-car restoration, prototype work for car manufacturers, and ancillary services such as coachbuilding, trimming, and component manufacture in everything from glass-fibre to alloy or brass.

Versatility and flexibility have been key factors in the Panther Group's spectacular advance during the past six years, with turnover almost doubling every year (the figure for 1977 is estimated as £2.3 million) and the premises, once confined to a garage at Mr Jankel's home, now embracing 85,000 square feet at Bifield alone, with more expansion planned for the near future.

The car that set Mr. Jankel on the road to widespread recognition was his interpretation of the classic SS Jaguar 100 of the immediate pre-war period, incarnated in the Panther 172, with present-day Jaguar mechanical components hidden beneath an immaculately finished 1930s-style coachwork. It is still in production at a special plant near Newport Pagnell, at the rate of two cars a week, and like nearly all Panther models it is based on a purpose-built steel tube chassis frame.

Since this original design there have been a wide variety of products ranging from the ultra-luxurious, as exemplified by the Bugatti Royale-inspired Panther De Ville saloon and convertible (they take 1,000 hours to build, upwards of £34,000 to buy), to bizarre projects such as the wedge-shaped Laser—a futuristic four-seater built for a Canadian customer. In between there has been a stark recreation of an early post-war Ferrari two-seater, called the Panther FF, and a not entirely successful attempt to turn the Triumph Dolomite into a luxurious compact limousine, labelled the Rio.

Some of Panther's work is classified information, for the "big guns" of the motor industry are making good use of this small and versatile company's car with an acceptable specification design flair and its ability to create and surprise. Whether it meets and sus-



Styling from the past—the Panther LIMA

prototypes in weeks rather than many months. But perhaps the company's most significant development in the past year has been the bold decision to enter a wider market with its inexpensive Lima, the two-seater with a glass-fibre body that was such a crowd-puller at the last Earls Court Motor Show.

Until now, most Panthers have been made to order (a substantial deposit must support each order), but the Lima, which makes wide use of Vauxhall's 2300 engine, transmission and other mechanical components) is scheduled for a production rate of 500 a year by the end of 1977, and is being stocked and sold in the usual way.

Meantime, Panther is by no means through with exotics, and I fancy that Mr Jankel may well be giving us our biggest surprise yet before this year is out.

The real value of anyone's car is the business of changing a car is the trade-in price. There are, of course, publications that purport to list the prices you can expect on your old car, based on different states of condition, but as any seasoned trader will tell you, this can be nothing more than a guide.

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This is one of the strengths of British Car Auctions, which operates from nearly 20 centres around the country, but whose main car auction centre is near Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr David Wickins, the group chairman and Mr John Feltham, his deputy chairman, are probably the two most knowledgeable people in the country on the subject of car values for the very good reason that they see more than 300,000 company-owned private cars (as well as many thousands of commercial vehicles) passing through their twice-weekly auctions every year.

They can spot a price trend almost before it has happened, and as their functions attract buyers (the majority, but by no means all are from the motor trade) from a wide area, invariably a genuine car will reach its genuine value under the hammer, merely through competition among bidders.

After watching both the prestige-car (reserve price over £3,000) and general-car auctions for a while during a visit to Farnborough recently, I came away knowing more about used car values than I could possibly have discovered in hours of wading through advertisements. Some of my "guesses" I admit, were well wide of the mark at first, but it is surprising how quickly one can become attuned to the market. By the end of the session I was only a few hundred pounds out on a £14,000 Silver Shadow (of which there were several being sold that day), although I was well aware of the British specification car, however, to be built at an assembly plant in Belgium, from which the European market will be supplied.

Visually, the Lima is a mottage styling drawn from various cars of the past, yet it has a surprisingly well balanced overall appearance. Look closely and you see the old and the new blending together remarkably well, and this is how the car feels from the driving seat. The flexibility of

Vauxhall's engine, the easy gearbox (reserve price over £3,000) and general-car auctions for a while during

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisement. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not

do so.

"With my whole heart I will show all my marvellous works."—Psalm 9:1.

BIRTHS

ABDULLAH—On August 29th, at Finsbury Park, London, N.1, to Fionn and Sean Shanahan and Sean's brother, a son for James Shanahan.

AYTHORPE—Gardner, Matilda, to Sarah (see Dunke)

BARTLEY—On August 29th, at West Cheshire Hospital, to Charles and a daughter, a son for Alan and Charles, a daughter, Alan, and Charles' daughter, Rebecca, a sister.

COURAGE—On 20th August, in hospital, in George Street, and father of Ian, funeral private.

DEAN—On August 29th, Jill (nee Gaffney) and Larry, a son for Lawrence.

GAYNER—On August 29th, The Worsenshaw Hospital, a son for Gullister—On August 29th, a son for James.

GILLESPIE—On August 29th, in Morvern (see) and Andrew Gillespie, a son for James.

GILLESPIE—On August 30th, to Muriel and Martin—a son for Muriel and Martin.

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